NY mayor: No hope left of finding survivors

STORY IN THE WORLD, PAGE A7

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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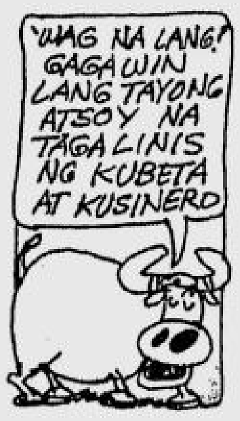

'WAG NA LANG! GAGAWIN LANG TAYONG ATSOY NA TAGALINIS NG KUBETA AT KUSINERO

'RP troops could end up as cooks'

By Blanche Rivera

WHY send Filipino soldiers to war on terrorism when "they will only end up as cooks or medical personnel?"

Nasser Marohomsalic, commissioner of the

RP TROOPS/ A13

Ping back in town: I have documents

EMBATTLED Sen. Panfilo Lacson arrived yesterday evening from the United States via Hong Kong with a bagful of documents which, he said, would prove that he was not involved in money laundering.

"All I can tell you is that I went to the US to get the documents that would prove my detractors are lying," Lacson said at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) after arriving

PING/ A13

US told it can't win war

Soviet war hero warns America of treacherous Afghan terrain

"YOU'LL never win."

That, in essence, was the ominous message to US officials contemplating attacking Afghanistan from veterans of the Soviet Union's decade-long war with Afghan guerrillas.

"You can occupy it, you can put troops there and keep bombing, but you cannot win," said Lt. Gen. Ruslan Aushev, who was decorated for bravery during the 1979-89 Soviet-Afghan war.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev once called Afghanistan a "bleeding wound." For a British viceroy more than 100 years earlier, it was a "poisoned chalice."

The country's brutal, mountainous terrain apparently poses a far bigger challenge to the US armed forces than the Philippine military ever faced in the jungles and mountains of Basilan and Sulu in its frustrating hunt for Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

Any US military operation must deal with the same daunting geography that foiled the British and Soviet empires.

Tanks and armor have difficulty moving in large force; mountain passes make ambushes easy; deep ravines and caves blunt the effectiveness of aerial bombing. Bitter cold saps troops' morale as they battle tough guerrilla fighters with intimate knowledge of the landscape.

"America doesn't want to kill 20 million Afghans," Aushev said, implying that nothing short of genocide could win a war in Afghanistan.

"No matter how they prepare for a ground operation, it is hopeless," said Yevgeny Zelenov, a member of the Russian parliament and a veteran of the Soviet war.

US troops would be facing a people who have learned to "sleep and live with their weapons," he said.

But Alexei Arbatov, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament's defense committee, said US officials have the advantage of Soviet experience as they plan their campaign.

Moscow has amassed in-depth knowledge of Afghanistan's terrain and may still have valuable intelligence contacts that it could share with Washington.

The United States may be able to learn the most from Soviet mistakes, Arbatov said.

"At a minimum, the experience of Russia in Afghanistan is already influencing the US in the sense that the United

US/ A12

WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
Osama bin Laden
For mass murder in New York City

FULL page headline of a New York paper on display in the financial district of New York after US President Bush names the Saudi-born Bin Laden as the "prime suspect" in the sneak attacks on New York and Washington. REUTERS

4 terrorists visited Manila

THE NAMES of four of the 19 terrorists who hijacked the planes used in last week's attacks on New York and Washington have surfaced in local immigration records.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday said the names Ahmed Fayez, Ahmed Al Ghamdi, Saeed Al Ghamdi and Abdulaziz Al Omari showed up on the bureau's computer files at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"We checked the 19 names against our list, and there were four hits," Domingo said. "This means people with these names visited the country. Some of them made a number of visits."

The immigration bureau said Ahmed Fayez visited for three days from Oct. 17, 2000. Ahmed Al Ghamdi visited Manila 13 times and last left the Philippines on Sept. 10, just a day before the attacks.

Saeed Al Ghamdi was in the Philippines at least 15 times and last left Manila on Aug. 6, while Abdulaziz Al Omari was listed as

4 TERRORISTS/ A12

FBI files first criminal charges against 3 suspects

WASHINGTON—Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) raided a house in Detroit on Tuesday looking for one of nearly 200 witnesses being sought in their investigation of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Instead, they found three men and a cache of documents, including false immigration papers and airport diagrams.

US authorities charged the three with having false immigration papers—and so filed the first criminal charges in their investigation since Sept. 11's attacks.

The investigation has detained 75 people for questioning and had at least four people under arrest as material witnesses, law enforcement officials said. A material witness is someone considered crucial to the investigation. Authorities may detain the witness without charging him with any crime.

An unconfirmed link to Iraq emerged Tuesday in the intelligence community.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States had received information from a foreign intelligence service that Mohamed Atta, an alleged hijacker aboard one of the planes that slammed into the World Trade Center, met earlier this year in Europe with an Iraqi intelligence agent.

That information came in after the attacks and had not been corroborated by US authorities, the official said.

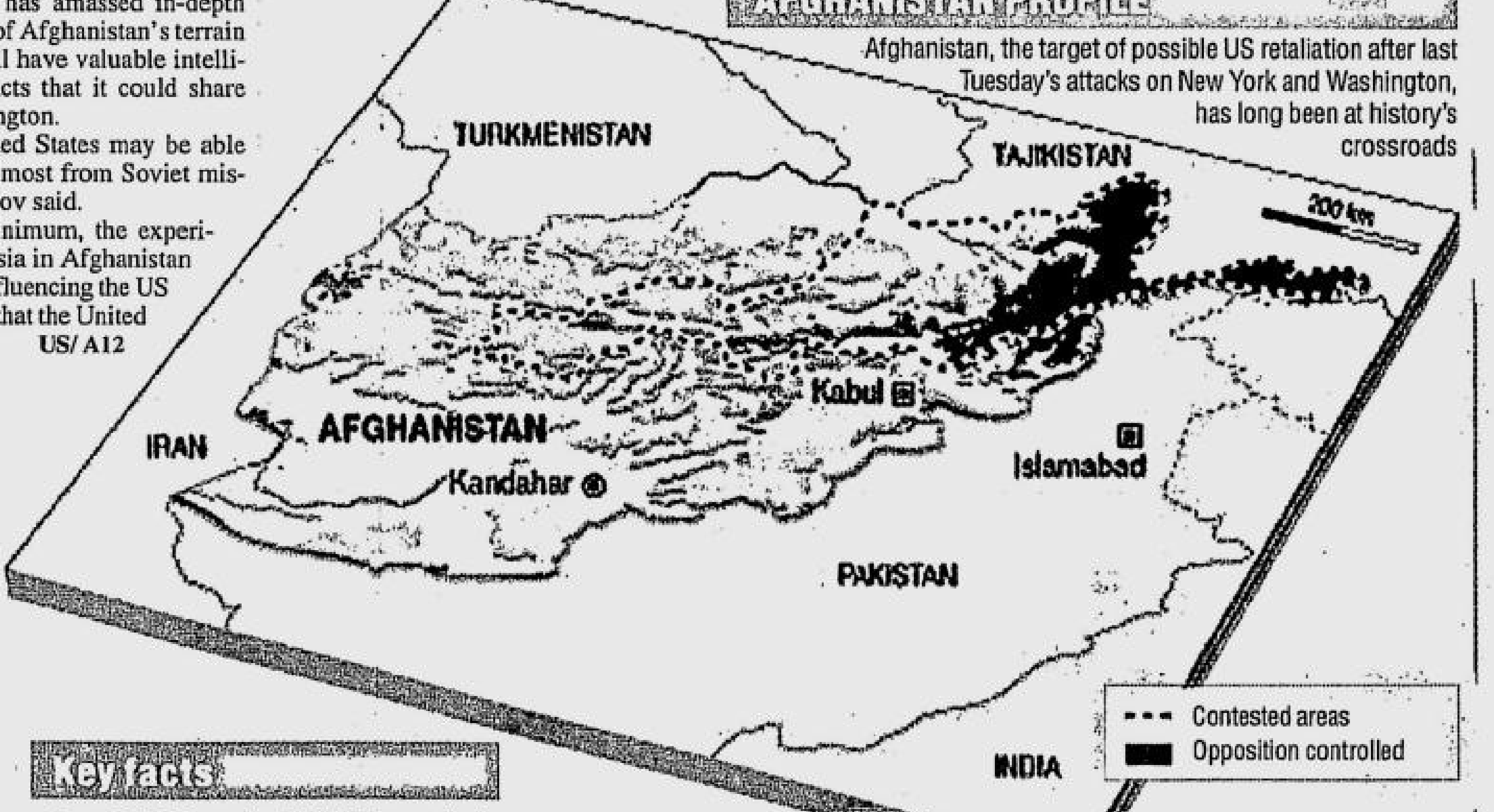
In other developments:

- The FBI has asked US banks and foreign banks with US operations to report transactions by individuals under investigation in the attacks.
- FBI cybercrime specialists have tracked down hundreds of e-mails from the alleged hijackers and their associates, who used both pub-

FBI/ A12

AFGHANISTAN PROFILE

Afghanistan, the target of possible US retaliation after last Tuesday's attacks on New York and Washington, has long been at history's crossroads



Key facts

- **Area:** 652,000 sq. km (251,800 sq. miles)
- **Population:** 26 million
- **Ethnic breakdown:** 38% Pashtun, 19% Hazara, 25% Tajik, 5% Uzbek
- **Languages:** Dari (Persian) (50%), Pashtu (35%), Turkic languages (11%), Others (4%)
- **Religion:** Sunni Muslim
- **Main exports:** Fruit and nuts, carpets, wool. World's largest producer of opium poppies–potential production 1,670 million tons (1999) and major source of hashish.
- **Natural resources:** natural gas, petroleum, coal, copper, precious, semiprecious stones. Depends mainly on livestock raising, sheep and goats.
- **Natural hazards:** earthquake area in Hindu Kush mountain range, flooding
- **Economy:** GDP (at purchasing power parity): 521M, GDP per capita: $800 (1999) Agriculture 53%, Industry 28.5%, services: 18.5%
- **Labor force:** 8M
- **Military manpower:** 6,401,980 (2000 est.)

Afghanistan chronology

- **19th Century:** Strategic position between the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent along the ancient "5th Route" puts it at the center of the so-called "Great Game" when imperial Russia and the British Empire in India vie for influence
- **1919:** Independence from British control over Afghan foreign affairs
- **1979:** Thousands of Soviet Troops intervene to prop up a pro-communist regime, leading to a major confrontation that draws in the US and Afghanistan's neighbors. One-third of population flee to Pakistan and Iran.
- **1988:** Agreement for Soviet withdrawal signed in Geneva
- **1989 February:** Last of 115,000 Soviet troops leaves, guerrilla war continues
- **1994** Taliban* movement established in Kandahar from a group of Islamic religious students
- **1996** Taliban fighters take Kabul and declare Afghanistan a "completely Islamic state"
- **1998 April:** US secures ceasefire, Taliban control most of the country

*Fundamentalist Islam: Taliban drawn from the Pashtun majority are opposed by an alliance of factors drawn mainly from Afghanistan's minority communities and based in the north. Recognized as the legitimate government by only three countries (Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE)

SOURCE: CIA FACTBOOKS/ BBC REUTERS

$300-M EMPIRE

Probers: Osama may have made killing in stocks

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Ostrich raising in Kenya. Forestry interests in Turkey. Diamond trading in Africa. Camel breeding in Sudan. Agricultural interests in Tajikistan.

Those are some of the businesses that Osama bin Laden is said to own, providing a way for him to move around money and sneak it into terrorist operations and funds that support a network of 3,000 fighters.

A report commissioned by the US Congress estimated his wealth at $300 million. In addition to his investments, Bin Laden, who inherited a family fortune, gets donations from wealthy individuals.

"Money is the least of Osama bin Laden's worries," said Faisal Salman, a journalist and expert on Arab affairs.

The world's No. 1 terror suspect finances his war against the citadels of capitalism with funds earned through capitalist ventures.

He may have also made a killing at the world's largest options market in Chicago, according to investigators.

The Chicago exchange trades options on the stocks of about 1,400 companies along with 38 stock-based indexes, including the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq 100. All nose-dived in the aftermath of the attacks.

PROBERS/ A13

Bush using carrot, stick to whip up coalition

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration is using the classic carrot-and-stick approach in forging a diverse anti-terrorism coalition and is ready to reward and punish nations accordingly.

"In different nations the carrot may be bigger; in other nations, the stick may be bigger," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Tuesday without specifying the nature of the "stick."

Afghanistan is clearly the main recipient of the stick so far. President George W. Bush has warned the ruling Taliban militia in Kabul that it could face military attacks for harboring suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

US officials said a diverse anti-terrorism coalition would be more viable politically than one limited

BUSH/ A12

Taliban chief defiant; blames US for Sept. 11

KABUL—"America is blaming Osama (bin Laden) for the Washington and New York incidents, but the question really is where did Osama train these pilots, which airports were used and who owned these aircraft? The answer is the Americans."

Mullah Mohammad Omar, the supreme leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, yesterday gave the clearest signal yet that the Islamic militia is ready to face a massive US military attack rather than hand over their "honored guest."

As more than 1,000 clerics from all over the war-ravaged country gathered to consider Bin Laden's fate, a defiant message from Omar dampened Western hopes they

TALIBAN/ A12

Second FRONT PAGE

MAS MAIGI NA YUNG HANDA!

₱900M eyed for war evacuation

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing some P900 million in contingency funds for the evacuation of Filipino workers in the Middle East and other countries likely to be the target of a retaliatory war by the United States against terrorists and those harboring them.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has committed to contribute between P600 to P700 million in surplus funds.

The national government would set aside at least P200 million from this year's budget for the contingency fund, she said.

But this will not result in the government's exceeding its P145 billion budget deficit target, she said.

About one million Filipinos work in the Middle East, 750,000 of them in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi assurance

Yesterday, the visiting Saudi labor minister, Ali Bin Ibrahim Al-Namla gave an assurance that Riyadh would protect Filipino workers there if hostilities break out.

The Saudi government will also allow OFWs working in neighboring countries to seek refuge in Saudi Arabia, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said.

She said Saudi Arabia had allowed displaced OFWs to enter and stay in the kingdom during the Gulf War in 1990 and when hostilities broke out in Lebanon, Iran and Iraq in 1995.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the Cabinet had discussed the need to stabilize the foreign exchange and capital markets so as not to slow the momentum of the domestic economy.

Ensuring normalcy

"We have to ensure normalcy in the peso and the capital markets. We also have to ensure that the budget deficit target will be met so as not to introduce any additional uncertainty in the market," said Canlas.

Boncodin said the economic team would start reviewing economic targets for next year in light of the impact of last week's terrorist attacks in the US on the global economy.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he was confident the Philippine economy would post a growth of three to four percent even in a prolonged war.

Gross domestic product grew by 3.3 percent in the first half, giving the government the confidence to declare the economy would achieve its full-year growth target of 3.3 to 3.8 percent this year.

Economic measures

Meanwhile, the Senate has promised to work on economic measures aimed at reducing the negative effects of a possible prolonged economic slump.

In a news briefing, Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Senate would be looking at the budget as a possible instrument "to perk up the domestic economy."

The Senate could also work with Malacañang to effect "emergency measures" to stimulate economic activity in the countryside.

Sen. Ralph Recto also appealed to the patriotic sense of Filipinos to consider buying local products to strengthen the domestic market. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Martin P. Marfil*

Church urges caution in war against terrorism

WHILE saying it supports Philippine involvement in the global fight against terrorism, the Catholic Church leadership has cautioned against sending troops to join military attacks on suspected terrorist lairs and other moves that might jeopardize the country's own security.

But the business community has thrown its full support behind the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's decision to assist in the US' retaliatory war against the terrorists responsible for the attacks against Washington and New York last week.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Orlando Quevedo urged the country's leaders to weigh all the alternatives in deciding what action to take to contribute to the fight against terrorism.

Quevedo said branding Muslims as terrorists and "unleashing full military force on suspected terrorists out of sheer revenge without consideration for innocent civilians" were wrong responses to terrorism.

"Yet another extreme and wrong response is to join the struggle simply because it is the right thing to do without consideration for our own internal security and peace," he said.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair and Makati Business Club director Raul Concepcion said businessmen were "unanimous" in their endorsement of President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to help the US-led anti-terrorist coalition as long as this is within the bounds of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1368.

Concepcion said Filipinos cannot afford to be fence-sitters in the face of the brazen, terrorist attacks especially since the country has its own terrorist group to deal with.

Meanwhile, Speaker Jose de Venecia said the Philippines National Security Council has approved a proposal to establish an anti-terrorism coalition with Malaysia and Indonesia.

De Venecia said President Macapagal-Arroyo supported the proposal during a council meeting late Tuesday and directed Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who is also foreign secretary, to immediately inform the Malaysian and Indonesian ambassadors of the initiative.

Under the proposal, the three countries would share intelligence on terrorist activities and keep tighter control over their maritime borders to stop the flow of weapons and terrorists.

In Kuala Lumpur, Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, secretary general of the Malaysian foreign ministry, said Malaysia had yet to receive "anything officially from Manila" on De Venecia's proposal. ***Reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, Gil T. Cabacungan, AP and AFP***

Pinay survives Pentagon

A FILIPINA was among the survivors of the terrorist attack at the Pentagon building last week, the Philippine Embassy in Washington reported Tuesday.

Day Olaes, a civilian employee at the US military headquarters, reportedly jumped out from the second floor when the building exploded and caught fire after a hijacked plane rammed into it.

The embassy said Olaes broke her right hip and had some minor burns on her hair. She is at present in "good condition," the embassy reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Gloria condoles with US in surprise embassy visit

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday went to the US Embassy in Manila to personally express her condolence to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The President also reiterated her administration's all-out support to the US-led international coalition against terrorism despite criticisms she got from some quarters.

Outgoing charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski received Ms Macapagal, who signed the book of condolences at the US Embassy chancery.

Malinowski thanked the President for the visit and her expression of sympathy, according to a Malacañang statement.

Ms Macapagal made the unscheduled visit to the embassy in Roxas Boulevard while on her way to attend the necrological service for the late Senate President Neptali Gonzales at the Senate in Pasay City.

She shook hands with the US nationals, Filipino-Americans and Filipino employees of the embassy.

The visit occurred a day after she convened the National Security Council, where past Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos are members, to seek broad support for her position to join the global coalition.

The President told embassy officials that the Philippines would extend all-out support and assistance to worldwide efforts to fight terrorism.

She assured the US that the Philippines would support the call for action spelled out under the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1368 against international terrorism.

The President again expressed her sympathies for the victims, telling US embassy officials that "our prayers go not only for the American victims but especially also for the Filipino victims... working in the World Trade Center."

"We are united in grief and condemnation with the United States, Japan and other mourning nations because innocent Filipinos, Americans, Japanese and people of other nationalities perished from this senseless violence," the President said.

Bin Laden still has link with Abu–AFP

BY NORMAN BORDADORA
ALCUIN PAPA
AND DAVE VERIDIANO

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday Saudi terrorist leader Osama bin Laden continues to maintain links with the local Abu Sayyaf bandit group, even after their "strong ties waned a bit" after 1995.

"The connection (between them) was particularly strong but it weakened a little in 1995. But there are still efforts to maintain those ties," Reyes said in an interview with reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Reyes' statement came in the wake of a pronouncement from Malacañang that Bin Laden's funding of the Abu Sayyaf ended in 1995.

Malacañang is inclined to believe there are no more links between Bin Laden and homegrown terrorists but admitted that two different agencies had come up with contradictory intelligence estimates about the suspected terrorist's ties to the country.

One assessment made by the military said there could be a link, while the other drawn up by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency said ties were cut in 1995 as the local group, the Abu Sayyaf, was "too mercenary" for Bin Laden's taste.

"There are two intelligence estimates, one which Secretary Reyes articulated, another that the ties were cut by 1995," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said at a press briefing yesterday.

"We have to look at the facts. The Abu Sayyaf's form of terrorism is a criminal one—kidnap-for-ransom. The Bin Laden global terrorists' modus operandi is to attack civilians and civilian installations. They don't gibe," he said.

He also pointed out that the Bin Laden group was loaded with cash while the Abu Sayyaf had to resort to kidnapping to raise funds.

Asked which "intelligence estimate" Malacañang was inclined to believe, Tiglao said it was the NICA report that said ties were cut in 1995.

Supporting Reyes' assessment, an INQUIRER source in the local intelligence community said the weakening of Bin Laden's network occurred sometime in 1995 after a cell established by Ramzi Yousef was broken up by Manila police.

Yousef and Abdul Murad were arrested in 1995 by local police for plotting to kill Pope John Paul II. The two were later convicted of bombing the World Trade Center in New York City in 1993.

But, the source said, as earlier broached by Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, then chief of the Presidential Security Group's special operations group that participated in the 1995 investigation, three more Bin Laden cells might still be in the country.

US hostage turns 42

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An American Christian missionary spent his 42nd birthday yesterday in the hands of Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Basilan, as his family renewed appeals for him and his wife to be released.

Martin and Gracia Burnham are among 18 captives held by the Abu Sayyaf in the jungle-clad terrain of Basilan island.

The couple were among a group of tourists seized by the self-styled Islamic fighters from a beach resort. Several have been freed allegedly on ransom payments, while others were executed by the rebels.

The military has said a third American, Guillermo Sobero of California, is presumed to have been killed by the rebels.

Bob Mycel, a family friend of the Burnhams, contacted Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) here to relay a message from the couple's family in the United States.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya has frequently used RMN to air the group's demands to Manila.

"Happy birthday Martin from your family and friends on your special day. Just remember that we love you and really missed you. We put your party on hold until you come home," Mycel said.

He said Martin's parents as well as siblings "really want you to come home."

"They are sorry that such a good person like you are being held. They want to wish you a happy birthday and pray that you and Gracia will soon be released.

"Your family and friends are thinking of you, especially today. We have not forgotten Gracia and we'll have a big party when you come home."

There has been no recent word on the fate of the Burnhams although the military has said it believes all remaining hostages are still alive, but could be suffering amid Basilan's harsh terrain. *AFP*

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SAUDI EMBASSY IN MANILA
CANCELS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

The Saudi Government has ordered all its overseas diplomatic missions to cancel the celebration of Saudi Arabia's National Day for the year 2001.

Therefore, the Saudi Embassy in Manila announces that its **National Day reception scheduled on September 24, 2001 at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila is hereby cancelled.**

The Embassy regrets any inconvenience caused by this cancellation.

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By: Ms. Mercy Abad
President, Trends-MBL
Session 3
SETTING PROFITABLE PRICING THRESHOLD
By: Dr. Antonio Concepcion
Professor, De La Salle Graduate School of Business

DAY 2 (Oct. 5, 2001)
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PREDICTING CONSUMER PURCHASE BEHAVIOR
By: Mr. Ambrosio Reyes
Director for Operations, A C Nielsen Philippines
Session 5
QUANTIFYING CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CREATIVITY OF AN ADVERTISEMENT
By: Ms. Darrah Estrada
Managing Director, Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines
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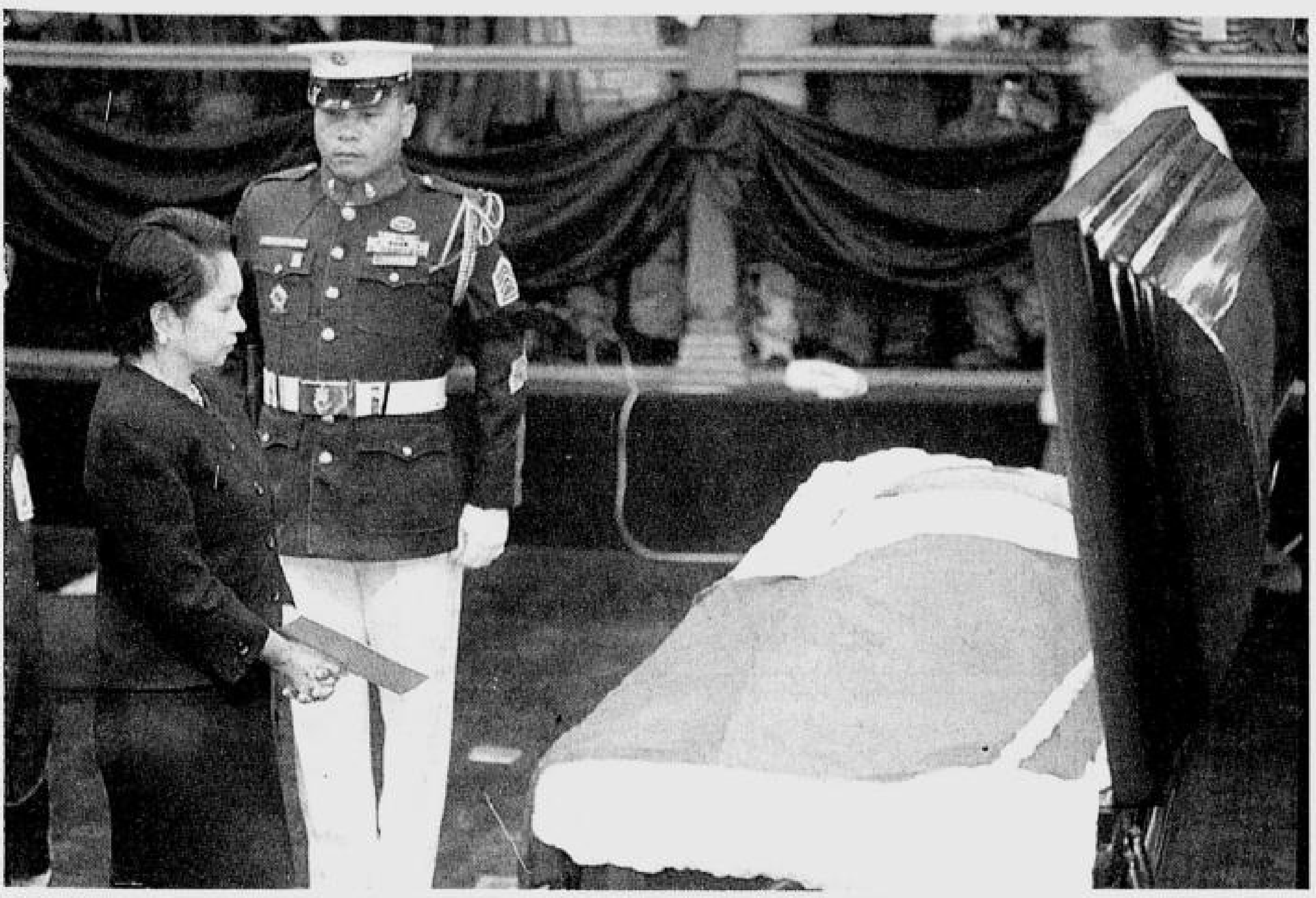

PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo views the body of the late Senate president Neptali Gonzales

Gloria leads RP leaders in paying tribute to 'Ka Tali'

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT was with a mixture of sentimentality and laughter that friends of former Senate President Neptali Gonzales, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, remembered him in necrological rites at the Senate yesterday.

"Ka Nep" or "Ka Tali," as he was more fondly known, passed away four days ago after suffering a heart attack. He was 78.

Gonzales was the second president of the Senate after the 1986 People Power uprising that threw out his nemesis, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He served in the top Senate post in 1991-1993, 1995-1996 and in 1998.

Gonzales' political career began when he was elected vice governor of Rizal province in 1967-69. Later, he won a seat in Congress (1969-72), in the interim national assembly (1984-86) and in the Senate (1987-1998).

Yesterday his family, led by his widow Candida, and former Senate colleagues, including Jovito Salonga, Eddie Ilarde, Ernesto Maceda, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, Santanina Rasul, Francisco Tatad and Heherson Alverson came to pay him tribute. Also at the rites was Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

In her message, President Macapagal said she considered Gonzales her "mentor" when she was a senator in 1993.

"Successful politician, legal scholar, upright citizen, godly man, these are some of the words that best describe Senate President Neptali Gonzales," Ms Macapagal said.

"But I remember him best as a caring mentor—the role model neophyte lawmakers in the 9th Congress like me could always rely on for guidance and leadership," the President said.

Among the laws Gonzales authored were Republic Act 6981, or the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Law; RA 6735, which provides for a system of initiatives and referenda, and RA 7655, which increased the wages of househelp.

Sen. Juan Flavier drew laughter from the mourners when he recalled the times he had with Gonzales.

Flavier revealed that he had taken Gonzales' advice to make sure that his first privileged speech was on an issue he knew by heart so that he could hold his own in a debate with the other senators.

That was why he spoke on the use of the tetanus toxoid, Flavier said. Flavier is a medical doctor and was health secretary in the Ramos administration.

He also recalled the time Gonzales bought him *sago at gulaman* when they were on the road. He said Gonzales told him to keep the treat a secret between them because the sweet drink was a big no-no for diabetics like them.

Sen. Joker Arroyo and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. remembered the times Gonzales stood his ground against Marcos.

Arroyo described Gonzales as a "democrat and libertarian" and a prominent opposition leader during the Marcos regime.

"I found Tali to be a sober voice in the ranks of the legitimate opposition to the martial law government," Pimentel said.

"He counseled against the use of violence and espoused peaceful means in opposing martial rule," he said.

Gonzales' son, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, thanked the Senate for the tribute given his father who, he said "fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith."

"Let it be so among us," he added.

From the Senate, Gonzales' remains were brought to the Department of Justice building on Padre Faura Street in Manila for another necrological service.

Gonzales was the first justice secretary under President Corazon Aquino, heading the department from February 1986 to March 1987 before he ran for the Senate.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Gonzales would best be remembered for "always (being) on the right side of the historical process."

Perez recalled that as a member of the minority in the 1978 Interim Batasang Pambansa, Gonzales delivered a speech exhorting the people to fight for their rights and freedom "in the streets and plazas, in the urban areas and the countryside, anytime and anywhere."

This was considered a bold move at the time the country was in the clutches of the dictatorship.

Perez also recalled that one of Gonzales' first acts as justice secretary was to work for the repeal of oppressive decrees penned by Marcos.

Perez said Gonzales explained that the decrees needed to be discarded as they were crafted during a time of evil (*panahon ng diyablo*)." ***With Cathy C. Yamsuan***

Erap lawyers want plunder trial reset

By Donna S. Cueto

HOPING that the plunder law may yet be declared unconstitutional, lawyers of ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to move the date of the trial of the plunder case against their client from October to November.

The lawyers also claimed that they would not be available to attend the hearings in October.

They asked the court to "cancel or hold in abeyance" the trial of the plunder case until the Supreme Court decides their petition questioning the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law.

Led by lawyer Rene Saguisag, the Estrada defense panel submitted a manifestation and motion yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court heard arguments on the issue.

Both defense and prosecution panels were given 10 days from Tuesday to file their simultaneous memorandums with the high court.

Meanwhile, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday asked SC Associate Justice Santiago Kapunan to inhibit himself from acting on the petition questioning the plunder law.

In a joint motion with the solicitor general, Desierto said Kapunan was related by first-degree affinity to Fidel Tamano, one of Estrada's lawyers in the ousted leader's impeachment trial.

Tamano is married to Kapunan's daughter, Maria Rowena.

Desierto cited a provision in the Rules of Court that says a judge or magistrate must disqualify himself "if related to the counsel of a party to case which he acts on within the fourth degree of consanguinity (by blood) or affinity (by marriage)."

Reports said Kapunan has been assigned to write the en banc decision on the petition, but this could not be confirmed.

The Estrada lawyers argued that should the SC rule that the plunder law is unconstitutional or inapplicable in the Estrada case, going through with the trial in early or mid-October "may just mean so much time wasted."

They also claimed that the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division had "acted unreasonably" in setting the hearings for the plunder case in October.

They said the pre-trial had been held "precisely to look for common free dates..."

They claimed that Estrada and his son Jinggoy were waiving their right to a speedy trial, because they know that their lawyers cannot cope with this schedule, they said.

They suggested instead holding one or two hearings a week, starting in November, pronouncing this as being "consistent with fair play."

Should the 3rd Division decide to deny their motion, the defense lawyers asked that the court issue the decision immediately so they "could bring the matter to the Supreme Court."

The Sandiganbayan has set the trial of the plunder case on Oct. 1, 17 and 18, and thrice a week starting November.

The court had originally set thrice-weekly hearings starting Oct. 1, but the defense lawyers objected. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

6 considered for SC post

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

SIX persons, including a Sandiganbayan justice, two former Cabinet members, an ex-chair of the Commission on Elections, a private lawyer and an INQUIRER columnist are being considered to replace outgoing Supreme Court Associate Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes.

Gonzaga-Reyes is set to retire on Sept. 24 after 47 years of service in the justice department and the judiciary.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez identified the nominees as Sandiganbayan presiding justice Francis Garchitorena, former justice secretary Artemio Tuquero, former presidential spokesperson Renato Corona; Former Commission on Elections chair Harriet Demetriou, lawyer Rogelio Vinluan of the ACCRA Law Office and INQUIRER columnist Antonio Carpio.

Perez said the law requires that Gonzaga-Reyes be replaced in the high court 90 days following her retirement.

Supreme Court justices have a mandatory retirement age of 70. Gonzaga-Reyes will celebrate her 70th birthday on Sept. 24.

Perez said members of the Judicial and Bar Council met yesterday to discuss the qualifications of the nominees.

Within the 90-day period after Gonzaga-Reyes' retirement, Perez said the JBC should be able to submit the names of the most qualified to the President.

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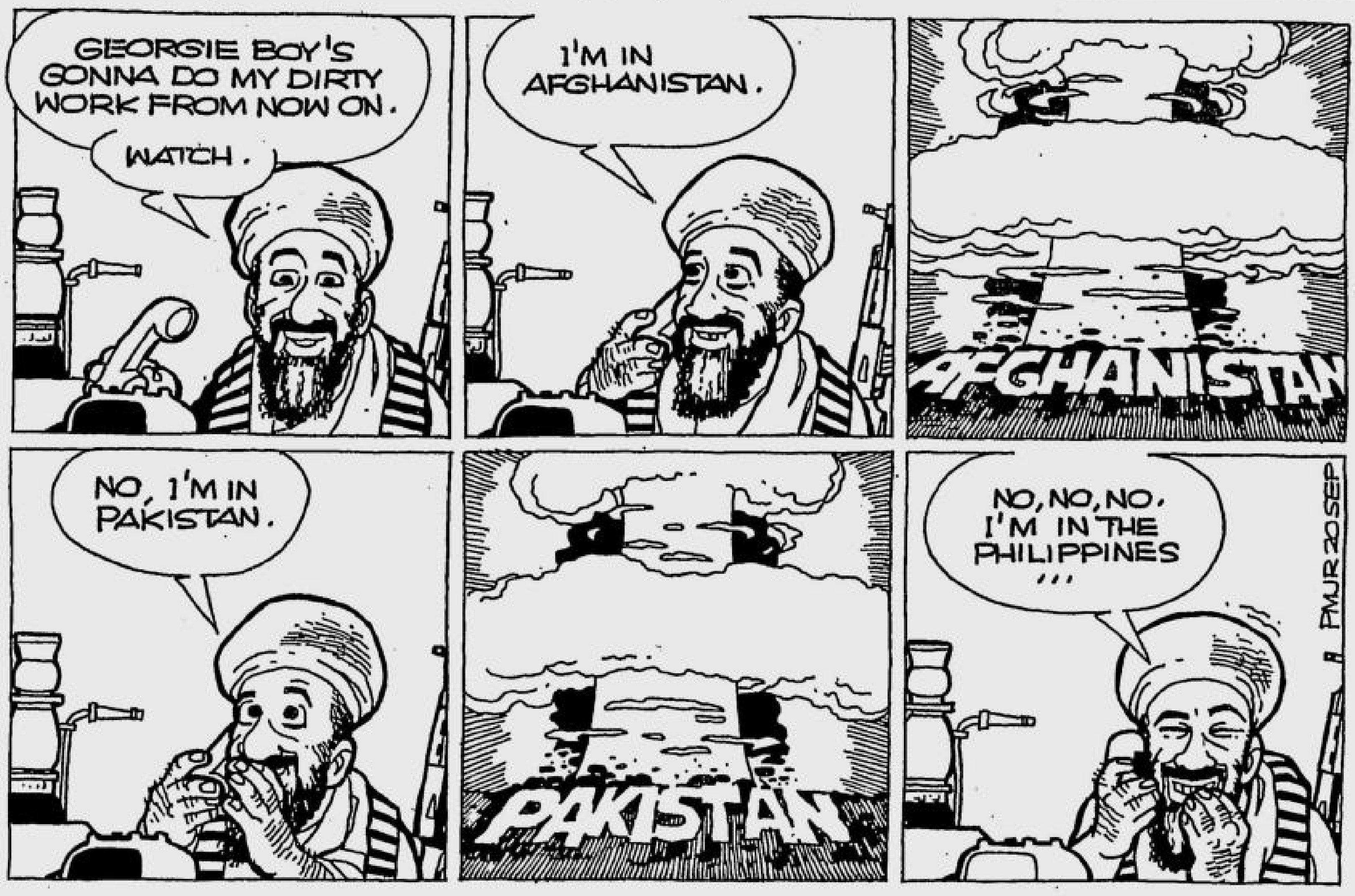
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Delusions

EDITORIAL

THE PHILIPPINES was among the first nations in the world to declare support for the United States in the war against organized international terrorism. The country stood to be counted when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pledged that her government would provide "whatever support is needed and we are capable of doing," including the use of the facilities of two former US military bases and port facilities.

The Philippine support was given at a time when the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution backing whatever action—military or diplomatic—the US would take in fighting terrorism, and when most nations all over the world rallied behind the US. They include the Nato allies, the moderate Arab states, Iran, Russia, China, countries in Latin America, and Southeast Asian countries.

The concrete military action the US plans to take is still undetermined, but so far, the international coalition against terrorism is the broadest ever assembled in modern history. Diplomacy has been deployed as a weapon to put pressure on the Taliban in Afghanistan to hand over Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect as the architect of last week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The Philippine declaration of support has stirred up domestic concerns over whether this would invite terrorist attacks, whether it would mean dispatching Filipino troops to help US military strikes, whether the use of our facilities by US forces would compromise our independence, or whether some form of assistance would violate the Constitution. The National Security Council met the other day to address these concerns.

The President gave the assurance that the use of ports as transit points and staging grounds for action against terrorists would be "undertaken within the framework of the Constitution and our laws." In regard to sending combat troops, the Palace said that congressional approval would be secured if at all there would be requests for troop contribution.

The problem with these scenarios is that we are anticipating worst-case contingencies even before requests for assistance are made and before knowing what military action the United States is contemplating to dismantle terrorist networks responsible for the attacks in New York and Washington and to put pressure on governments sheltering terrorists.

If we are to look at things more realistically, terrorist attacks in this country in retaliation for its joining the rest of the world in supporting the war on terrorism are unlikely. We are on the periphery of the action. We are not a strategic player where an attack would have a shocking impact. If there would be further terrorist attacks, there are dozens of other countries which offer better strategic targets.

A US request for the Philippine combat troops to help counter-terrorist military action seems far-fetched. The United States and its Nato allies have better trained forces for this type of action, and if one thinks of Afghanistan as theater of action, Pakistan's military forces are better suited for such an operation. So let's not think big, and delude ourselves into believing that we are strategic players and as though the fate of this war rests on the shoulders of our military.

What the United States needs from most of its allies and those which have rallied behind it in the war on terrorism do not involve troops. It boils down to two things: diplomatic support and intelligence assistance to track movements of terrorists across national borders and the movement of money derived from drugs. Intelligence and criminal investigation reports have already shown that the terrorist networks require more extensive logistical resources than the fabled wealth of Bin Laden can finance.

The United States has indicated the kind of help it wants from its allies. In a meeting in Washington on Friday, the State Department presented foreign ambassadors with a four-point message on terrorism. State Department officials told ambassadors from the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe that the United States expected their countries to arrest terrorists, to prevent terrorists from moving across their borders, to speak forcefully against the kind of violence unleashed on Tuesday and to join international efforts to combat terrorism. The accent is on diplomatic solidarity and domestic efforts to arrest terrorists and to restrict their movements.

Such action can be accommodated within the framework of our Constitution.

Alvarez, Abalos now open to reclamation with garbage

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos have finally admitted that using garbage for offshore reclamation is the best answer to the garbage problem, an idea which this corner has been advocating for a very long time. Up to now, the MMDA's solution is to throw Metro Manila's trash into its neighbors' backyards. If you were the neighbor, how would you feel? How would Metro Manila feel if its neighbors threw their garbage into its vacant lot?

They would react the same way the residents of Rodriguez, (formerly Montalban) Rizal are reacting. They are fighting the plan to turn their municipality into Metro Manila's garbage dump.

Actually, Metro Manila's local government units and their garbage contractors are committing grave sins to the environment by surreptitiously turning many secret nooks in neighboring municipalities into their garbage dump by bribing barangay and other officials of these municipalities. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the MMDA must have an inkling of what is going on but have kept quiet about it.

This cannot go on. Sooner or later, these secret dumps will be discovered and the residents will fight them. Nobody wants to live next door to a garbage dump.

As I said before, the perfect dump is a place where it won't bother anybody, some place not every far so that garbage trucks can make several trips a day and not contribute to traffic congestion. That place is just next door to Manila, much nearer than the secret dumps in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan. That place is the sea, a big portion of which has already been previously reclaimed.

This idea is nothing new. Japan, the United States and other countries have already done that successfully many times. They now have big tracts of land being used for park, commercial and residential purposes which were reclaimed from the sea with garbage. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is helping us do the same thing. But Abalos, Alvarez and their predecessors previously closed their eyes to this alternative. Their mindset is still to throw their trash in somebody else's backyard.

But now, they seem to have seen the light. They are talking of reclaiming foreshore lands with garbage. Alvarez has identified one possible site: the shallows off Navotas which are to be reclaimed anyway.

Navotas is the smallest municipality in terms of area in Metro Manila and badly needs more land for its bursting population, hence the reclamation. The North Bay Boulevard will pass along the outer side of the reclamation project. It will connect to the Cavite Coastal Road through Bonifacio Drive and Roxas Boulevard to provide another route—this one a pleasant, scenic, fresh air-conditioned seaside route—from Cavite to Bulacan and Pampanga and other points north, bypassing the traffic-choked inside routes through Metro Manila.

The good thing about reclamation is that dump trucks don't have to clog the roads to the dump. The garbage can be transported there by barges, which is much cheaper than by trucks.

If an island is to be reclaimed, as proposed by R-II Builders, which reclaimed the Tondo foreshore area off Engineer Island, perhaps an exception can be made in the Clean Air Act by allowing a non-polluting incinerator on the island later on. It would be far from inhabited areas to pose a nuisance or hazard anyway.

The obstacle that Abalos and Alvarez see is the cost of reclamation. Jica estimates it at P80 billion in 12 years. But look at it this way: All that reclaimed land is free. Those hectares and hectares of reclaimed land would be worth double, triple, quadruple what it cost to reclaim them. What's more, it would solve Metro Manila's garbage problem once and for all.

That Jica estimate, by the way, is for off-shore and on-shore sanitary landfills, including upgrading the San Mateo landfill. Land acquisition alone will cost P2.3 billion. With reclamation, however, you don't have to buy any land. Instead, the reclamation, besides getting rid of the garbage, will create huge tracts of free land.

Best of all, this can co-exist with the segregation, recycling and composting mandated by the Solid Waste Management Act, as well as with other technology on waste disposal such as hydromex and, possibly, incinerator. Recyclables and organic waste can be separated, other wastes can be made into concrete blocks via hydromex, and hazardous wastes can go into the incinerator. Only the residue will go to the off-shore landfill.

But even assuming the government will finally make up its mind and proceed with speed to implement the project, it would still take time. Meanwhile, garbage is piling up all over Metro Manila—and in secret nooks of neighboring municipalities—and threatening the health of the people. Something has to be done fast now, not later.

We have too many Hamlets in government always musing "To be, or not to be..." President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who would be ultimately blamed if an epidemic breaks out, should wake them up.

Tomorrow

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE MADNESS grows. The reactions have become more and more knee-jerk, and dangerous. The latest to be infected with the disease is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, though that is not exactly surprising. If anyone seems particularly vulnerable to the virus, having built little resistance to it in terms of strengthening character, or more particularly in terms of not trying to please everybody, it is she.

She says she will support all-out the American initiative to fight terrorism, and to that effect would be willing, among other things, to allow the US to use Philippine territory for its campaign, and if necessary, send a Philippine contingent to help fight alongside US forces. "We cannot be fence-sitters, nor should we be wishy-washy during this historic period when the civilized world has decided to annihilate international terrorism by all means," Presidential Spokesperson Bobi Tiglao quotes the President as saying. The sentiments are admirable, the methods suck.

At the very least, why on earth should we send a contingent to fight terrorism abroad when it's all we can do to fight terrorism at home? Thankfully, there has been no lack of people pointing that out from both Houses of Congress. It's the most obvious reply to that silliness.

The Abu Sayyaf, a small band of terrorists, has been plaguing this country for the last several years, and has been emboldened to extend their operations to Palawan, and we are nowhere near to erasing them from the face of the earth. No great thanks, one might add to America, which has not helped in that respect despite the Mutual Defense Treaty that Ms Macapagal so freely invokes as binding us to commit to America at this hour. And yet we propose to help in a campaign to annihilate international terrorism? We need some very serious psychologists to give us some very serious reality checks.

Who wants terrorism, international or local? But there are more effective ways to fight terrorism other than by making *pasikat* and volunteering Filipinos as cannon fodder to the cause. Not the least of them is by fighting terrorism at home. "International terrorism" is not something that exists out there, it is something that exists in here, as the Abu Sayyaf amply shows. We fight terrorism at home and we contribute mightily to fighting international terrorism.

Quite apart from that, we want to effectively fight international terrorism, we do that by preventing it from taking root in this country. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. We do that by preserving the spirit of democracy in this country, we do that by enlarging the scope of democracy in this country. That means using the very scant resources of this country to uplift the plight of the people of this country, many of whom live patently subhuman lives, and who are the most likely recruits for criminal activity, if not indeed for terrorism. That means using the not very scant power of the state to defend the precepts and institutions of democracy, with their demands for human rights and due process and basic decency.

That does **not** mean resurrecting the world of Philcags, and US bases, and "special relations," which has only helped people like Ferdinand Marcos turn this country into a garrison state. We would do well quite incidentally to reflect on that, tomorrow being the 29th anniversary of martial law. That does not help to annihilate terrorism, local or international, that helps perpetuate it.

But more than that supporting the current American initiative in this way is excessive, it is also that it is reckless. It is one thing to give America support to fight international terrorism, it is another thing to give America carte-blanche authority to pursue its current global policies. The difference between the two is not always clear in America's current initiative, and is not going to get any clearer with other countries jumping in to support "all-out" any American action in the Middle East. As an article in the Guardian recently pointed out, it has also been American global policy to trash international treaties it finds inconvenient, such as the nuclear disarmament protocols and the Kyoto accord on the environment. It has also been American global policy to bomb Afghanistan, Sudan, Yugoslavia and Iraq "without troubling the United Nations." It has also been American global policy to back up Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and assassination of Palestinian *intifada* leaders.

Indeed, it has also been American global policy to use people like Osama bin Laden against its enemies. Who is Bin Laden? He is the former Saudi Arabian religious freak whom the CIA helped train and arm to fight the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul. And who are the Talibans? They are the group the US-backed Pakistani intelligence community conscripted to fight the same Soviet regime in Kabul. They are the Frankenstein monsters America helped create. In the name of fighting a repressive state in one part of the globe. In the name of fighting a terrorist state in one part of the globe.

Well, you cannot fight terrorism by terrorist methods. As you sow, the Bible says, so shall you reap.

America has been attacked, America has been wronged, America has been wounded. That is a reason for us to grieve with it, that is a reason for us to seek justice along with it. That is not a reason for us to stop casting a critical eye at how it means to get it. That is not a reason for us to believe blithely that standing up to be counted means stumbling blindly behind George Bush wherever he goes. That is not a reason for us to stop thinking, or to imagine—as several letters from Americans in my e-mail angrily insist—that whoever is not with America at this hour is against America. Or civilization itself.

Yesterday, it was Najibullah, the Afghan communist leader the CIA ousted through Bin Laden. Today, it's Bin Laden, the international terrorist we want to annihilate "by any means." We do not pause to reflect on this, and we must soon ask:

Who will it be tomorrow?

Our best contribution to anti-terrorist effort

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE GREAT national debate going on at this juncture is not whether the Philippines ought to join in the multilateral "retaliation" against the international terrorists but the form its participation will take. Even the radical elements in this country recognize the reality that even countries that have not been traditional allies of the United States are joining in the action and tailoring it to their own specific needs. This is what the Philippine government has to do: find its own level and mode of involvement, given the limitations set by the Constitution and its financial and military capability.

* * *

For instance, a country as isolated as North Korea has now joined South Korea in condemning the terrorist attacks. South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, in fact, has proposed that the two Koreas adopt a joint resolution opposing terrorism during the upcoming high-level North-South unity talks. China's President Jiang Zemin, in a phone conversation with US President Bush one day after the attacks, denounced the terrorist strikes and offered full support and cooperation with the US. But China is not expected to support US retaliation unconditionally. Each nation has to seek its own level of involvement, especially since at this point the US itself seems to be still studying its options vis-à-vis its "public enemy No. 1," Osama bin Laden.

* * *

In Tokyo I read with interest the national debate on what Japan ought to do by way of joining the multination effort to contain international terrorism. Japan being a major world economy and a leading G-8 country, unofficial talks were held between US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and Japanese Ambassador to Washington Shunji Yanai on the Japanese role, which would, in turn, be dependent on two things: the kind of "retaliation" the US leadership has in mind, and how the Japanese Diet would cooperate in interpreting the Self-Defense Forces' (SDF) role as defined by the Constitution. Under the Japanese Constitution, since the end of World War II, Japan has renounced war as a policy of state, and they are very sensitive to any hint of rising militarism or involvement in anyone's war.

* * *

The Japanese media noted that while US plans are not yet clear at this point, three military options are apparently being considered. One is to launch cruise missile attacks on Bin Laden's hideouts from warships and aircraft, if these could be identified; a second is the use of jet bombers; and a third is the deployment of ground troops, including paratroopers. Reports indicated that the prevailing thinking in Tokyo is that Japan's best contribution would be in the form of logistic support for fuel and food supplies, naval transport and medical services for military personnel (from the US and other nations, not Japan) engaged in strikes. In other words, no direct Japanese troop involvement.

* * *

There is pressure in Tokyo for the Japanese government to volunteer readily and in a form more appreciable than the financial support it extended to the US during the 1991 Gulf War. Armitage reminded the Japanese ambassador of the barrage of criticism Japan got owing to the "extremely small role" it played in that war. The latest report is that the Japanese Diet will convene an extraordinary session on Sept. 27, to discuss the involvement of the SDF in logistic support, in time to offer it to President Bush when he visits Tokyo next month.

But to Japanese journalist Kiyoshi Wakamiya, who is best remembered here for having accompanied Ninoy Aquino to Manila to his martyrdom in August 1983, Japan's help during the Gulf War was by no means small. Over dinner in a Korean restaurant in Tokyo that he says is the favorite place of "Manong Joe" de Venecia, Wakamiya pointed out that the Japanese government spent $20 billion in that war but no one seemed to appreciate it.

* * *

What is the best way for RP to help out in the war against international terrorism? Sending troops should be out of the question as our troops are already spread thin between Mindanao, the Bicol region and parts of Negros, and in East Timor. Help in logistics is only for rich nations like Japan (Senate Minority Leader Nene Pimentel even suggested that the US should help us in our fight against the Abu Sayyaf).

As I see it, there are two ways by which we can help and show support for the allied effort, without compromising our own interests. One is to put our country in a state of preparedness to deal with homegrown terrorists, especially the group in the South which may have links to Bin Laden's group. We should isolate our own terrorists as a way of lessening the headaches of the world's democratic forces as well as our own. Another way is by putting together medical teams for deployment far behind the battle lines, similar to what the Philippines put together during the Vietnam War.

Our help has to be token at this point, given our economic condition, but in a multi-nation effort, even token gestures are important, and they don't have to be insignificant. Our doctors and nurses could supply the tender loving care that the foreign troops could use while in recuperation, especially after combat duties in the inhospitable mountain areas of Afghanistan.

* * *

At the 23rd Joint Meeting of the Philippine-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee held in Tokyo and presided over by Joel Torres of the Philippine panel and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, the Japanese business executives raised a number of concerns bothering them. One is the security of Japanese doing business in the Philippines. This is something that the President's team encounters in every foreign visit. In Brunei, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was also asked about this issue, especially with regard to the Abu Sayyaf.

At the lunch that followed the Tokyo business forum, President Macapagal stressed that to combat criminality she created the National Anti-Crime Commission, under which is the anti-kidnapping group. She noted that the crime rate has gone down this year. In Brunei, on the other hand, Reyes stressed that what is important to remember is that the Abu Sayyaf has become isolated among the various Muslim groups, especially after the unification of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberal Front was recently forged under the sponsorship of the Organization of Islamic Conference. Reyes said the OIC definitely is interested in promoting peace in Southeast Asia as an instrument of development for the Muslims. He added that the OIC has communicated to the two secessionist groups its desire that their aspirations have to come within the ambit of the Philippine Constitution.

Reflections

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMONG those still missing after the World Trade Center disaster, aside from 19 Filipinos so far, are an estimated 200 to 300 Britons, about 200 Colombians, and hundreds of others from countries like Japan, China and even Pakistan. In all, said reports, nationals from 162 countries are among the almost 6,000 missing and feared dead.

This makes the attacks on the WTC and Pentagon tragedies of a truly global scope. Americans, New Yorkers in particular, may take the events of Sept. 11 as a personal affront and an assault on their country, their symbols of power and might, and their way of life. But the death toll demonstrates that the terrorists committed a crime not just against America, but also against the world—and against humanity.

One didn't have to know or fear that kin or compatriots were in those gleaming towers or in the Pentagon, or aboard those ill-fated flights, to feel horror and sorrow at the sight of those planes slamming into office buildings. Truly, a line has been crossed. While we have learned to live with terrorism and accept with equanimity the inconveniences that precautions against it have imposed on us, never before has murderous intent on this scale been unleashed or, I dare say, even imagined.

What distinguishes terrorism from war or military action is that the terrorist has no specific target. The ordinary civilian is as much "legitimate" prey as the soldier, police, politician or official. And as the attack on the World Trade Center proves, it hardly matters what nationality or ideology the victims have.

One needed no further proof of the reality of "globalization" than the diversity of the people working in the World Trade Center. Their deaths likewise show us how terrorism has become "globalized," hitting anyone anytime, for whatever reason, or for no reason at all.

* * *

THE DEATH toll from the World Trade Center tragedy, said New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, could be so huge that it would be "more than we can bear."

But if "non-weapons" like passenger jetliners crashing into vulnerable buildings could create such bloodshed and destruction, and cause untold and immeasurable emotional trauma, can you imagine what would have happened if the terrorists had nuclear weapons at hand, and the will and propensity to use them?

Would we—the peoples of the world—be able to bear the pain and the horror? And yet, for decades, America, the Soviet Union and upstarts like Pakistan, France and maybe even Iraq thought the way to hold the balance of power on an even keel was to scare everyone on earth with the possibility of "mutually assured destruction."

The only way we could cope with the ever-present and mounting danger of a nuclear holocaust was to push it out of mind, refusing to ponder the scale of destruction and death. Our state of denial was so pervasive that former US President Ronald Reagan even sought to cushion doomsday fears with the development of a new type of nuclear weapon that would "only" destroy human beings and other living things, but keep buildings intact.

Well, we've had many "tests" since then. Hiroshima and Nagasaki proved not just the capacity of an atomic bomb to kill whole populations and devastate great swaths of civilization, but also its ability to "keep killing" years after the holocaust, with chronic radiation sickness and genetic abnormalities. And yet present-day nuclear weapons bear the power of hundreds of those bombs that fell on Japan.

The World Trade Center visualizes for us the full horror of wide-scale devastation. Wars and long drawn-out conflicts, including politically induced genocide and famine, have killed more people, but over time. We now know how it feels to see thousands of people get killed in a matter of a few seconds and minutes. I don't think we can talk so casually about nuclear deterrence after what we saw and felt just over a week ago.

* * *

HOW could someone justify mass murder on the scale of the WTC and Pentagon attacks in the name of "religious belief?" "That is something that I can never understand," David Letterman, certainly no naïf when it comes to human nature, was moved to declare in his first TV appearance after the tragedy.

That's one question easy to answer. It's the same impulse that drives someone who calls himself a Christian and a pro-lifer, to take rifle in hand and shoot down a doctor who works in an abortion clinic. Or for groups who fervently claim to defend life to plot to bomb abortion clinics, even if it means killing everyone inside—including women bearing the very same lives the zealots seek to save.

Down through history, religion has been used to justify and explain the most base and evil of our thoughts, feelings and actions. All faiths and religions base their teachings on the desire of humanity to attain a better nature and arrive at a better place. It's what believers do with the tenets of their faiths that transform religions into shields and false raiment for murderers.

A friend once likened "God" or the Higher Power to the Internet—all-encompassing and universal. Churches and religions, he said, are like service providers, who allow individuals "access" to God, even if by different routes. Well, the perversion of religion into divine permission to kill, maim, destroy and murder would be like a virus, feeding on the basic program of humanity's search for the eternal and divine, and transmuting it into the desire to glorify oneself by way of destroying others.

It might well be a way of killing God alongside oneself and one's victims.

'From sea to shining sea'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THERE is something about the power of song.

For several days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon, I had most of my emotions on hold. I was horrified and angry, yes, and wishing that the perpetrators and their coddlers would be decimated, pulverized and smashed to smithereens—immediately. But grovel I did not.

There was no way one could fathom what US citizens, especially those who lost their loved ones, felt. There was also no way one could sympathize with the cause of the terrorists who ended their lives in order to also end the lives of more than 5,000 innocent people. What kind of martyrdom is that? It was all so senseless, but also so awesome, cinematic, surreal. Before our very eyes a passenger airplane was being smashed against a skyscraper that, moments later, entirely crumbles and turns to dust.

One's anger is more than one's sorrow. The heart responds—but bitterly, angrily. It turns into a mighty boulder. It is heavy.

And then there was that song. They were singing a song that I once knew.

Sept. 15 I think it was when services for the missing and the dead and for peace were being held in many places all over the world. In the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the TV camera zoomed in on an African-American singer who sang "America, the Beautiful." Her voice was smooth and full and powerful. I knew at once I would be swept away.

"O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber fields of grain, For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain..." After five days on hold, my heart crumbled like the World Trade Center towers.

The church crowd then joined the singer and went crescendo with "America, America, God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea." I wept.

It was the song, and more. And I thought, America, America, this could yet be your shining moment, your greatest moment. Stand tall and powerful, and hold back, America—for now. There is a time for grief, there is a time for justice and retribution.

Well, easy to say.

There are four stanzas in that song and somewhere, is the line, "O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years, Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears. America, America..." Ah, the alabaster city is now dimmed by swirling dust and human tears shed "from sea to shining sea."

I think I learned the song in grade school as "Philippines, The Beautiful" with "America, America..." substituted with "My Philippines, dear Philippines, God shed His grace on thee." To be sure, I looked this up the other day in an old cloth-bound music book, "Philippine Music Horizons for Intermediate," I had bought in the Old Manila antique store at SM Megamall. There was "Philippines, the Beautiful" among many illustrated Philippine folk songs and Filipinized American and European tunes that have become part of our culture.

In the aftermath of the attack, Americans have been singing solemn hymns—from "The Star-Spangled Banner," "My Country 'tis of Thee" to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Amazing Grace"—but it was "America, the Beautiful" that stirred me most, especially because it was a black woman (surely a descendant of slaves)—who led the singing, her voice shining and awesome like the sea.

And I thought of the America's great achievements as well as the horrendous sins it had committed against the poor and powerless of this world but for which its good and upright citizens do not deserve to pay. There's a lot in the Internet about these past sins (on the slaves, the Indians, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Vietnam, etc.) being mentioned in this context but I have yet to read someone saying US citizens deserved this kind of attack. And although I could sometimes sense the "they-had-it-coming" tone, there is also the blanket "this-could-never-be-justified" outcry.

There is a time to mourn and be humbled. The one who composed "Amazing Grace" was a repentant former slave-trader.

Another Internet hoax? Circulating in the Internet is this message saying that the CNN footage showing Palestinians rejoicing over the US tragedy is vintage 1991 taken during the Gulf War and not right after the terrorists' attack in the US last week. The circulator of this info says the CNN footage could cause waves of anger against Palestinians and put them in a bad light. It also puts in a bad light CNN and the media.

CNN has responded to the brouhaha and issued a statement saying that the footage was shot only last week in East Jerusalem by a Reuters TV crew. (CNN Beijing bureau chief Jimmy Florcruz, a Filipino attested to this.) Proof of this is a Palestinian praising Osama bin Laden, the suspected brains behind the carnage, who was an unknown 10 years ago.

Remember the heroes and martyrs: Catch the last two days (today and tomorrow) of "Heroes' Opus" at the 70s Bistro on Anonas Street, Quezon City. The concert series and exhibit are for the benefit of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation. Bantayog honors the memory of those who laid down their lives during the 14-year Marcos dictatorship that began on Sept. 21, 1972.

Bantayog maintains a shrine with a monument and a wall of remembrance where the names of the heroes and martyrs are inscribed. New names are added every year, following a continuing process of research and documentation. The shrine is on Quezon Avenue corner Edsa in Quezon City. The foundation has new projects in the drawing board, among them, the improvement of the shrine in order to make it a hub of activity.

Tickets sell at P150. Among the performing artists featured are Asin, Tropical Depression, Brownman Revival, Noel Cabangon, Gary Granada, Grace Nono, Bagong Dugo, Makiling Ensemble and The Jerks. Call 4536066, 4536067.

A walk in Manhattan

YOUNGBLOOD

Leandro P. Castillo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TODAY, Sept. 14, I was at Union Square.

Union Square is the location of my school, the New York Film Academy (NYFA). I went there after confirming my flight tomorrow for Houston to finish some items I have left hanging.

Union Square is a major park in Manhattan. There you can see kids in the playground, people walking their pets, the elderly enjoying the fresh air. There's a café right there, one of the best in New York, and it is featured frequently in the TV show "Sex and the City." You will usually find a group of students from NYFA equipped with Arriflex cameras making test shots. It's one of my most favorite spots.

These days, however, Union Square is being frequented by a new kind of visitor: the friends and families of those who are missing after the collapse of the World Trade Center.

I walked south of Union Square toward the George Washington Monument where most of them have congregated. A group of police officers were on standby to keep the peace. A number of curious passersby were there to check out what was happening.

As I walked further south, I saw propped up on the benches large illustration boards with pictures of people stuck on them. There were many, many pictures. Pictures large and small. Some of them are real photographs. Others are bubblejet printer copies. Some are Xeroxed. Pictures of white people. Pictures of blacks. Of Italians. Chinese. Spanish. Of men. Women. Children. Each picture had a different message written below:

"Have seen this woman?"

"Help! I can't find my Daddy!"

"MISSING."

"Police officer lost in collapse"

"Please call this number if you find her immediately."

Some of the pictures are decorated with ribbons. Others with flags. Others with photos of their children. Some are photos of missing persons with their pets.

I looked at all those pictures...no, not pictures, but people. These are people. People who lived lives, who bore children, who had jobs. People who had families. People who saved lives.

I walked a few steps more, and saw a large group of people, with a big space in the middle of them. I advanced to take closer look, and in the center of a wide space, I saw a pillar. A white pillar, adorned with ribbons and flags and words. On the top of the pillar were some wires sculpted to resemble a burning flame. I suddenly realized what the pillar meant when I looked at the floor.

On the ground were candles. Big candles. Small candles. White candles. Colored candles. Some of them were wide, some narrow. All of them had a burning flame. Mixed with all of them were more ribbons of different colors. Still more pictures. And more words:

""We will never forget you Daddy, we love you."

"May God be with your soul."

As I looked at all the candles, a great sadness overwhelmed me. Each candle was a soul. A soul now missing and a soul now lost. A soul that was loved and cherished.

The people in the crowd were quiet. Some were just looking at the candles, standing very still. Others were lighting more candles. Most of them, even the men, were trying to hold back their tears.

I stayed with the candles for some time. And I silently said a little prayer for the people in the pictures. I felt as I said my silent prayer that everyone was saying it with me. It was a prayer shared by everyone for the souls of those who passed away.

I stayed for a few moments more, and then turned to leave. Then I suddenly realized there was another group around another wide space right behind me. I went toward the group to take a look.

This time there was nothing on the floor. Nothing but words. Words written on chalk and written on the park's pavement. Words written in different colors, of different sizes, of different handwritings. Words arranged in a wide expanding circle. Words such as:

"LOVE IS THE KEY"

"We pray for your souls"

"We will always remember you"

In the center of the circle was a small bowl. Written right below it were two words: "Help yourself."

I suddenly realized that there were people—one or two, at the time—who were writing at the edge of the circle. One man came forward to get a piece of chalk from the center, and went to the edge, and wrote: "Chris, thanks for the memories."

I turned around to leave. As I walked away toward the subway, I felt the tears coming.

The city has come together in ways you could not possibly have imagined. I was in Javits Convention Center earlier, one of the holding areas for volunteers, and people have been going there in droves. You walk around the city and you'll see policemen in every corner, a comforting presence. You see people donating blood in all the hospitals, doctors, nurses, even medical students coming out in big numbers to help the wounded. And thank God, there's no foolish searches at every entrance.

A lot of people have said that the attack was reminiscent of Pearl Harbor. I think the comparison is apt. At Pearl Harbor, America was taken by surprise because it was in denial about the war that was raging. Because of that it suffered losses like it had never experienced before.

And yet after Pearl Harbor, heroism of a kind that had never been seen before came out. Today, there is heroism in the policemen and the firemen who work without rest day and night. Heroism in the common man who come out to help in any way he can.

One day, all of the remaining survivors will be saved. One day, we will bury the dead. One day, we will salute all the heroes.

And one day, from the ashes of the World Trade Center will rise a new tower, rising high, rising tall, rising proud.

Tomorrow I leave New York City. For the last few months I have called it home. I've experienced its highs, I've experienced its lows, I've experienced its everything. I've come to love this city in more ways than one, and I have learned to hate it at other times, but isn't that always the case?

Manila is my home. But every time I see New York City, I see what Manila could be. As I keep telling people who keep asking me here, Manila is not very different from New York. The attitude is the same, the lifestyle is similar, heck, even the geography is pretty close.

I consider New York City basically the same as Manila—with just more confidence, more ambition, more style and more hope. I am inspired by how the people of New York have carried themselves, especially in the last few days, and I can see no reason why we in Manila cannot do the same.

With a little more confidence, a little more ambition and a little more style, I believe there is still hope for Manila to become the best and brightest that it can be.

Leandro P. Castillo, 27, has just completed a film directing course at the New York Film Academy. A computer science graduate of De La Salle University, he worked for five years with IBM Philippines, before deciding to change careers.

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LETTERS INQUIRER

A culture of mediocrity in sports

THERE is a well-known sports adage that goes like this: "No one remembers who got second place." Another way of stating it is: "The first loser is the second placer."

We offer these quotes as a reminder to our sports officials who gloat over the fact that we won 66 silver medals, or 66 "near gold medals" as they would now redefine the categories of awards in athletic competition. A bronze medal, we presume, should now be called a "near silver."

Isn't this exercise a futile attempt to explain away the failure of our sports officials who predicted a gold medal haul of 40 and came home short of the count? How can we justify the fact that we keep losing to Vietnam which has been taking part in the SEA Games for less than a decade?

If it is indeed true that our brave, tough and fighting President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo expressed satisfaction over the number of silver and bronze medals that we won in the recently concluded SEA Games, then there is reason to believe that she sent the wrong message to our youth and sports officials. It would have been more appropriate for her to remind our sports officials that, considering the fact that the Philippines has the longest history in sports among all countries participating in the SEA Games, we should have learned valuable lessons from our past mistakes and almost 100 years of sports participation starting with the American Thomasites.

A cursory analysis of the reasons for our failure to do well in the last SEA Games will reveal the same causes as those we already recognized in the past. Unless there is a change in attitude among our sports officials—an attitude which will make them ashamed of failure rather than redefining it to give it the illusion of success—we will continue to promote a culture of mediocrity in sports, where the constant quest for excellence is the acceptable norm of behavior.—**APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc., 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Probe of Smart, Globe should continue

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia's order suspending all ongoing congressional inquiries and imposing a six-month moratorium on new investigations should be done on a case-by-case basis. Only those that have obvious undertones should be suspended but those that directly involve the public should be allowed to continue.

One investigation that should be continued is that on the plan of Smart Communications and Globe Telecom to cut their free text message service by as much as 76 percent. In this case, the complainant is the public. We don't need any member of the House of Representatives to represent us during the congressional inquiry. Congress is the people's forum for grievances and complaints. We have all the right to be heard.

The Speaker should allow the probe against Smart and Globe to continue because this is of national importance. Otherwise, he would be suspected of favoring the business interests of the two telecom giants.—**BETTY G. LAZARO, 4987 P. del Pilar St., Makati City**

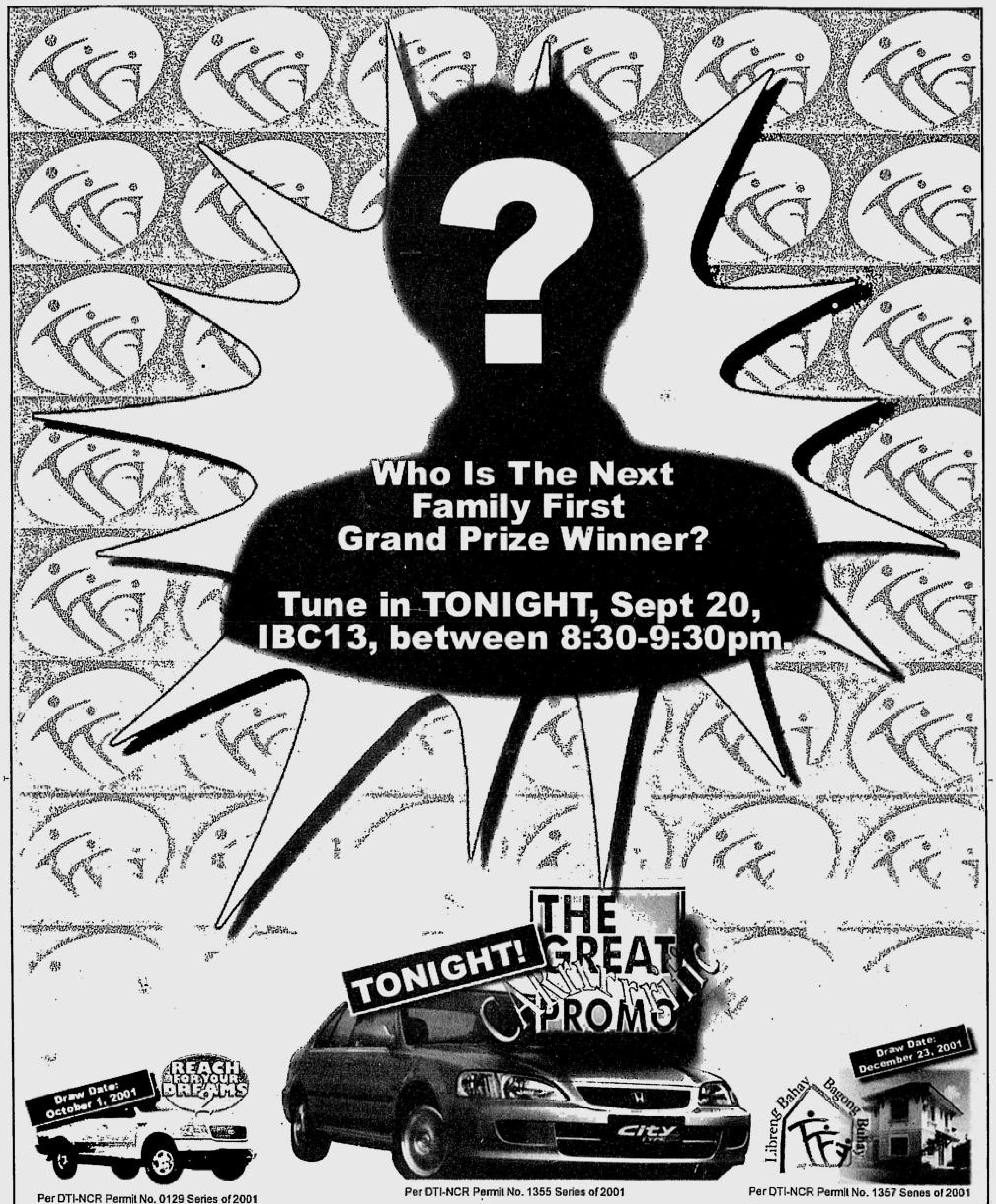
Voters can rectify their mistake

I WISH our senators would stop bolstering their arguments by referring to the "millions of votes" that put them where they are as though that should stop any further debate.

Every time a senator is accosted about his or her wrongdoings or indiscretions, he or she jumps like a royal peacock to claim that 10 million people voted for him or her, as if those 10 million voters could no longer change their minds.

There is a provision in our election laws for recall. All those voters who were carried away or somehow convinced by a candidate's campaign lies and false promises can rectify their mistake by withdrawing their support through the recall system.

It is ugly to hear some senators anchoring their boastful statements on their "10 million votes" once upon a time. This claim, taken together with our certain knowledge of how elections go around here, leaves a bad taste in the mouth.—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Building, 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**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Sowing dragons' teeth

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHEN US President George W. Bush talked about launching "the first war in the 21st century," he was showing his lack of understanding of history and of his own country's foreign policies. The problems we have today, including the carnage in New York and Washington last week, spill over from the 20th century, from superpower struggles, from military adventurism and blunders that, sadly, are in danger of being repeated many times over.

It's clear that the world needs to wage war against terrorism but we also need to be more critical about the way that war is waged. Right now the focus of the American government seems to be on massive retaliation against Afghanistan and other countries harboring terrorists. The Wall Street Journal quotes Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia as saying, "Bomb the hell out of them. If there's collateral damage, so be it."

Collateral damage is the term the American military uses to refer to civilian casualties. If they do decide to bomb Afghanistan, this collateral damage will be massive. Afghanistan is a country already in shambles, reeling from a Soviet-Afghan war from 1979 to 1989 and from the ruling Taliban, described by the Afghan-American writer Tamim Ansary as a "cult of ignorant psychotics."

But this is not the first time the Americans have inflicted collateral damage on Afghanistan. Based on interviews with former CIA operatives, journalist Mary Ann Weaver wrote an article called "Blowback" in The Atlantic Monthly back in 1996 describing how the CIA poured some $3 billion into Afghanistan to oppose the Soviets. The support went "to a fratricidal alliance of seven Afghan resistance groups, none of whose leaders are by nature democratic, and all of which are fundamentalist in religion to some extent, autocratic in politics and venomously anti-American."

Among those mujahideen or so-called holy warriors are today's Taliban rulers, as well as a number of "Afghan Arabs," Arabs who volunteered to fight the Soviets in Afghanistan. One of those Afghan Arabs was Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden comes from a wealthy Saudi Arabian family so he probably did not need CIA money but the Americans' involvement in Afghanistan certainly helped to create the nucleus for Bin Laden's network of anti-American mujahideen.

The title Weaver used for her article comes from CIA jargon, a blowback referring to the boomerang effects of military operations. Another way of describing this blunder is to say the CIA sowed dragons' teeth, a metaphor drawn from the Greek mythical tale about Jason, where soldiers emerged from the teeth and ended up killing each other. The expression is still used to refer to attempts to stir up strife and war.

The US government will sow more dragons' teeth because by bombing Afghanistan, they will live up to the claims of Bin Laden that the Americans are ruthless kaffir or infidels. In effect, the Americans will become the number one recruiter for world terrorist networks.

Bush himself has admitted this will be a long protracted war, but you wonder if he knows just how long "protracted" means. History teaches us that when you sow dragon's teeth, it may take several years before the soldiers emerge. We don't have to look too far afield for examples. "Shooting the Moon," written by Abu Sayyaf hostages Callie and Monique Strydom, has this very revealing passage about Abu Sayyaf leaders Galib Andang (Commander Robot) and Mujib Susukan:

"Galib Andang was 10 years old in 1974 when Philippine troops, loyal to the US-backed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, invaded Jolo island in response to a Muslim uprising...As the military approached, Galib's mother Sahrifa fled from their village Bilaal to Amatol. She took her two sons and three daughters with her but Galib's 80-year-old grandmother was too weak to run. According to Galib's older brother, Warid, they dug a hole in the ground, hid their grandmother inside and covered it with palm leaves. They promised to fetch her later. They returned when it was safe only to discover that the old woman had been shot and her head and hands chopped of. The dismembering of corpses was a routine Philippine Army practice as Marcos' men were well aware that the entire body was needed for a proper Muslim burial. That day, said Warid, Galib left the family to join the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front). Like most Muslims on Jolo in the 1970s, Mujib Susukan's father also joined the MNLF. Unlike Robot, Mujib's father owned land and was wealthy. When he was killed in a clash with the military, Mujib inherited his land, his gun and his war."

History's lessons are all too clear: to end war, you wage war against social injustice. The problem is that everyone thinks social justice is a long-term endeavor that we can just postpone. What has happened then is that we've allowed the injustices of several generations to spill over into the present, fanning old grievances and conflicts. Today, even after the terrible assault on America, we refuse to learn. From Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Desert Shield and now to Afghanistan, the American government has been too quick about bombing civilian populations.

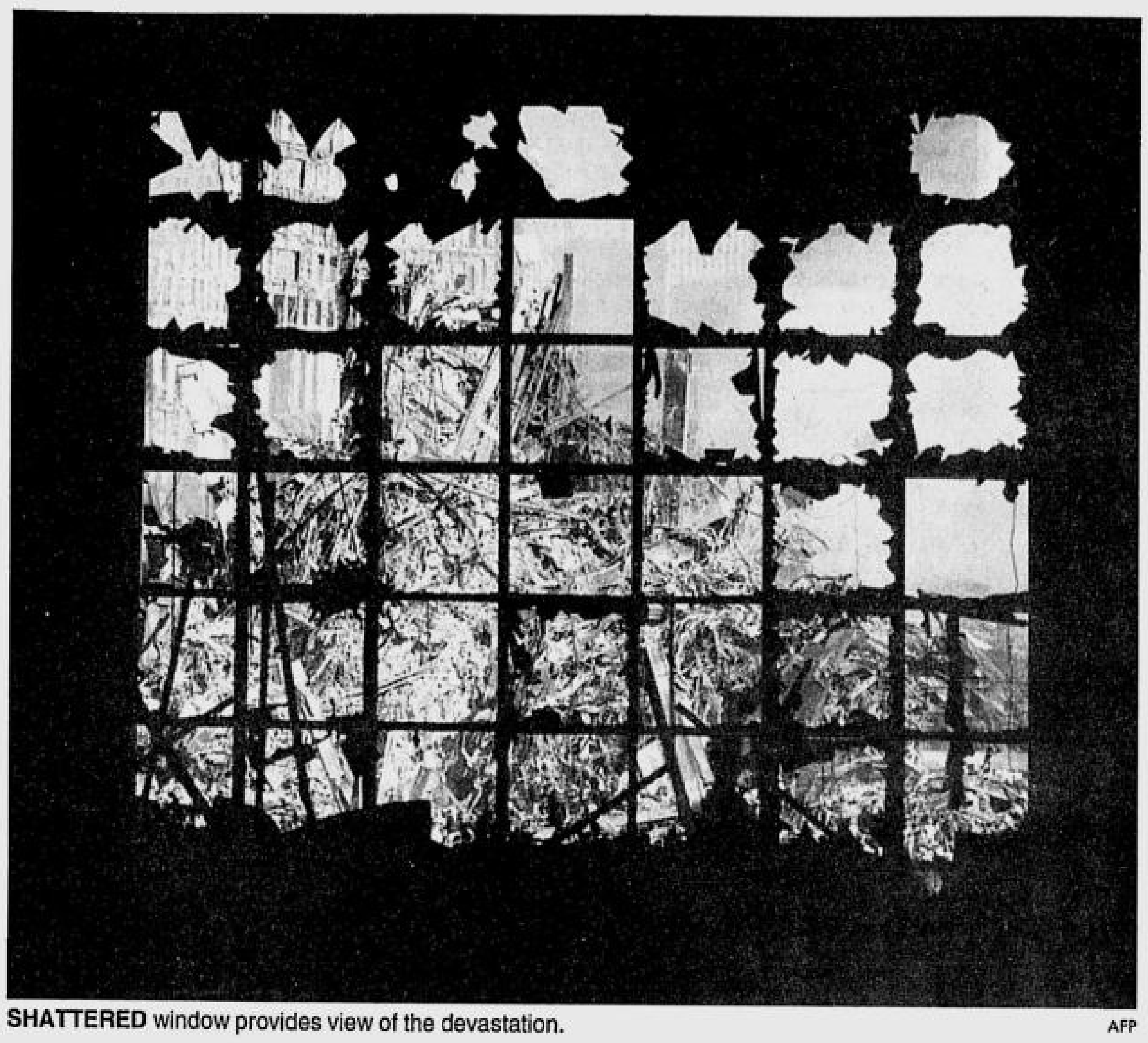
It's disturbing, too, how our own leaders so slavishly dance to the beat of the American government's war drums. Dr. Henny Espanola, a friend in Iloilo, sent a text message asking why no one talks about the Afghan refugees. Why indeed? Instead of offering soldiers and military bases, why can't we extend humanitarian assistance to the more than 400 refugees who tried to enter Australia and were sent instead to Nauru? And what about the people left behind in Afghanistan who, if they survive the Americans' bombs, will have to face a terrible winter ahead?

When will we stop sowing dragons' teeth?

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Giuliani: No hope left of finding any survivor



SHATTERED window provides view of the devastation. AFP

NEW YORK—One week after terrorists brought down the World Trade Center, the mayor said there was virtually no hope left of finding any of the 5,400 missing souls alive.

The somber news from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani came just a few hours after the nation, led by President George W. Bush on the White House lawn, paused for two minutes to honor the victims. The remembrance came exactly one week after the first of two hijacked airliners struck the twin towers, followed soon after by hijacked planes crashing at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

Nancy Pelaez, an administrative assistant on her way to work in New York, paused and wiped away tears. "When you keep silent these two minutes, it seems like a really long time," she said. "I'm thinking of people who were looking for their loved ones."

By Tuesday, 218 people had been confirmed dead at the World Trade Center and 5,422 were still listed as missing. Five survivors have been found, but none since last Wednesday. Just 135 bodies have been identified—a little more than 2 percent of the dead and missing.

After a week of round-the-clock digging by thousands of rescue workers, the mayor said the chance of finding any survivors in the smoking ruins of the 110-story towers is now "very, very small."

"We don't have any substantial amount of hope we can offer anyone that we will find anyone alive," Giuliani said. "We have to prepare people for that overwhelming reality."

As the one-week mark arrived, workers in New York's command center paused amid the ringing phones and glowing computer screens. In Union Square, which has become a gathering point for mourning and reflection about three kilometers north of the wreckage of the World Trade Center, residents stood silently amid a sea of candles and flowers.

Even workers at the wreckage site—widely referred to as "ground zero"—stopped briefly in the hazy morning sunshine before returning to their labors within the seven-story mound of concrete, glass, metal and wood.

"If a brother has lost his life, you'd like to give him a proper burial," said Tom Butler, spokesperson of the Uniformed Firefighters Association. "We're going to continue to do what we have to do."

Wearing a face mask to protect his face from the smoke, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan joined the mayor and New York Gov. George Pataki for a 20-minute tour of the rubble. He shook his head repeatedly. *AP*

Ground zero: A ghostly look

NEW YORK—One floor beneath the World Trade Center, in what used to be a shopping concourse, a clock on a jewelry store wall remained frozen at 9:10. A ghostly Bugs Bunny statue stood coated in gray dust outside a Warner Brothers gift shop nearby.

As the stores in the underground mall were checked one-by-one for survivors, rescue workers marked them with an orange X: They made one stroke of the X as they went in, the other as they came out.

Wearing what looked like miner's helmets, search crews from the Federal Emergency Management Agency picked through the rubble and the darkness under 5 World Trade Center on Tuesday, burrowing into any space big enough to shield a survivor. The nine-story section of the World Trade Center was charred but did not collapse when the complex's 110-story twin towers crumbled on Sept. 11.

"There are caverns down here," said Don Schroeder, commander of a Fema unit from Sacramento, California, "The focus is to continue to find and extract victims from a pile of rubble like this."

He said he had no doubt a person could have survived in the spaces the workers found, but nobody has been found alive so far. He said some bodies were recovered as crews tunneled into the concourse but could not say how many.

The mall was dark except for headlamp beams and some daylight that fell through the shaft of a stalled escalator. Broken glass crunched underfoot. The air was stale and stifling. Workers wore heavy, elaborate filter masks. Canisters of oxygen were on hand if needed.

At the Tourneau jewelry shop, where eight clocks displayed time from around the world, local time had stopped at 9:10—about 22 minutes after terrorists began the attack by hijacked airplanes that brought down the towers.

The store's windows were shattered. Rolex boxes were empty. Pale blue velvet cushioning display counters was caked in dust.

The workers were from a Fema Urban Rescue team based in Sacramento, California, one of eight 62-member teams on duty from California, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Florida and Pennsylvania.

They searched by hand through the corridors of the concourse, tossing aside rubble, peering into spaces and snaking in a fiber optic camera when they could burrow no farther. Harley, a golden retriever, helped sniff for victims.

Outside, the daunting rescue and recovery efforts continued in orderly fashion in the rubble of the towers. Cranes lifted large pieces of debris from a great crater. A large trash bin was labeled "airplane parts" in bright yellow spray paint.

Fliers were posted throughout the area, showing workers what an airliner's black box looks like. The black boxes of the two airliners that brought down the twin towers have not been found.

Hand-lettered signs in the windows above said "God Bless America," and "R.I.P." and "Kill Them All—Let Allah Sort Them Out."

Many of the rescue workers appeared weary. But a team of state troopers in crisp creased flannels monitored the perimeter, standing in puddles.

Above the entrance to 5 World Trade Center, where the Fema team was working below, was a sign that said, "Open Every Day." *AP*

US Sikhs threatened beaten, killed

SAN JOSE, California—Gurdarshan Singh was on his way to donate blood for the victims of the terrorist attacks on America when a man in a van pulled up alongside him and began shouting.

Minutes later, a second man pulled up on the other side and gave him a vulgar gesture. The men followed him for several minutes, said Singh, a Sikh minister who lives in Rockville, Maryland.

Like Singh, members of the Sikh religious community in the United States have been threatened, beaten and in some cases killed in the past week—simply because of their appearance.

Sikhism is a completely distinct religion from Islam, and yet some members are being mistaken for Arabs or Muslims because they wear turbans and have beards.

"I can see the emotions are so high and the people are looking at turbans and thinking I might be connected somehow with (Osama) bin Laden and his followers," Singh said. "Unfortunately the ignorance is so much, and people use their eyes, they don't use their heads."

Although the number of backlash crimes will not be tallied for quite some time, anecdotes of attacks on Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs have frightened many Americans. *AP*

Terrorist attacks in US leave Asia's tourism industry in tatters

BANGKOK—Holiday and business travelers are canceling trips to Asia in droves after the attacks on the United States, spelling disaster for the region's tourism industry and governments who rely on revenue from the sector.

"We are getting cancellations all over the place—Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, Rangoon, Singapore, Fiji, the Philippines—everyone is losing their shirts," said Agnes Pacis from the Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok.

"Everyone is likening it to the Gulf War incident when occupancy went from 60 percent to 20 percent. We're not there yet but that's the worst picture that everyone is expecting," the marketing director said.

The drop-off is sending shivers down the spines of governments that counted on tourism as a vital source of foreign exchange while their export industries were being undercut by slowdowns in the United States and Japan.

Some tourism authorities are putting a brave face on the crisis, saying their destinations remain safe and that they are confident travelers will return once airline services are normalized.

But others admit the terrifying assaults carried out by four hijacked passenger jets have brought business and conference travel to a standstill, and that tourists are now too afraid to leave their home countries.

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) said Tuesday the disaster had struck "a terrible blow" to the industry, with travelers worldwide canceling or postponing trips in large numbers.

Increased security precautions and higher oil prices would be additional burdens on the sector, said the Madrid-based organization.

Amid threats of a "holy war" over demands for Afghanistan's leaders to hand over terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden, South Asia's tourism industry appears to be bearing the brunt of the damage.

"The impact is already being felt," said Subhash Goya, president of the Confederation of Tourism Professionals of India, warning the industry stood to lose $8.5 to 10.6 million.

"There have been mass cancellations for October from tour operators based in US and Europe," he said. "Nearly 70 percent of the group bookings for October have been canceled and 20-30 percent of individual leisure travelers have also canceled their visits."

In Nepal, which is still reeling from the June massacre of its royal family, top hotels and travel agents reported heavy cancellations in the week since the attacks.

"If the US launch military attacks against Afghanistan or some other parts in our region, it will gravely affect not only tourism but also the overall economy of our country in the coming months," said National Planning Commission Vice Chair Prithvi Raj Ligal.

The business capitals of Tokyo and Seoul were hard hit as US companies banned their staff from non-essential travel, forcing international conferences to be scaled back or canceled.

"We see a decline in the number of passengers in US-bound flights as a direct result of the terrorist attacks in the United States," said a spokesperson for Japan's number two airline All Nippon Airways.

Tokyo's Imperial Hotel said it expected "few tourists in the months to come" amid jitters over the United States' plans to avenge the attacks on New York and Washington.

Major Seoul hotels reported room occupancy rates running between 20 and 30 percent down on usual figures, while airlines said there were a third less passengers on US-bound flights since they resumed.

Hoteliers in popular holiday destinations in Southeast Asia and Australia said the next few days would be a "crunch time" as the extent of the damage to the industry became clear. *AFP*

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See Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2286 series of 2001

Navy begins unloading refugees onto Nauru

BOE, Nauru—A group of 100 Afghan refugees took their first steps on dry land for three weeks Wednesday—but they were on the tiny Pacific Island republic of Nauru, not Australia, their intended destination.

Hundreds of locals turned up at Nauru's main port to watch the refugees being ferried to land on two Australian Navy landing craft.

The group was mostly made up of men, but included about three women and six children.

As women performed traditional dances, each refugee was handed a small bunch of frangipani flowers.

They were then shepherded toward six dusty school buses for the five-kilometer ride to a makeshift refugee camp built by Australian troops in Nauru's barren interior.

As they approached the dock, some of the refugees held up a banner proclaiming: "Thanks from honorable government of Nauru for giving protection and shelters for Afghan refugees."

One man, who did not give his name, said the group was grateful to Nauru for taking them in.

"We wanted to go (to Australia), unfortunately Australia has closed the door for us," he said.

The Afghans were taken to Nauru on board the Navy troop carrier HMAS Manoora after the Australian government turned them away in a hardline stand against people smugglers who each year ship thousands of refugees to Australia. ***AP***

Japan to test up to 1M cattle

TOKYO—Japan stepped up its battle against mad cow disease Wednesday, adopting strict European standards that require the individual testing of up to 1 million cattle nationwide for signs of the deadly brain-deteriorating disease.

The sweeping check will target all cattle older than 30 months that are destined for human consumption, the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry said in a statement. The massive screening will begin at 117 testing centers when inspectors are trained, a process that begins next month.

In total, about 1 million animals will eventually be tested, but the ministry aims to inspect a first batch of 500,000 by next March, ministry spokesperson Hideshi Michino said. The tests will cost the government $12.8 million, he added.

The investigations come as Japan scrambles to head off a consumer backlash and reopen beef export markets, such as the United States, which quickly barred Japanese meat imports after a possible mad cow case was announced last week. China, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines have joined the growing list of countries banning Japanese beef.

The inspection is modeled on similar measures taken by the European Union in its attempt to counter two massive outbreaks of mad cow disease in Europe. Under the EU program, which began Jan. 1, at least 1.75 million tests have been carried out on healthy animals before slaughter.

That program also targeted cattle over 30-months old, because research indicates symptoms of mad cow disease are difficult to detect in younger animals.

Mad cow disease, or bovine *spongiform encephalopathy*, is believed to spread by recycling meat and bones from infected animals back into cattle feed. The disease is thought to cause a nervous condition in humans, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which kills its victims by tearing holes in brain tissue.

Just last week, Japan's agriculture ministry announced that a test on a suspected mad cow from an area outside Tokyo showed evidence of the disease—making it possibly the first case in Asia. A panel of scientists is still expected to make a final determination, however.

Since then, the ministry has mobilized about 5,800 officials to conduct spot tests at the nation's 140,000 cattle farms. Wednesday's measure steps up the inspections so no cows are missed.

Japan has also revised an ordinance banning the use of meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

Under newly proposed penalties, violators will face up to three years in prison or a fine of up to $2,600. The previous ordinance had no penalties.

Last week's announcement of the possible mad cow case drew a torrent of inquiries from frightened Japanese consumers, and several local school boards have already stopped using beef in school lunches.

Some 1.3 million cows are processed for meat annually in Japan.

Of them, about 1 million are 30 months old or over, Michino said. ***AP***

Japanese judge questions Fujimori

TOKYO—A Japanese judge has questioned Peru's ex-President Alberto Fujimori over his alleged role in corruption scandals in the South American country, a court official said Wednesday.

Fujimori was questioned by a judge from the Tokyo District Court at the request of Peruvian authorities, said court spokesperson Kazuhiro Nakayama.

Fujimori appeared for a closed-door session at the court "sometime in July or August," Nakayama said.

Nakayama said the Tokyo court could not disclose the content of what Fujimori was asked, but said Japan had sent a report on it to the Peruvian government.

Peruvian authorities in February asked Japanese authorities to question Fujimori, he said.

Fujimori has been exiled in his parents' native Japan since November, when his 10-year authoritarian rule ended amid corruption scandals. He was granted Japanese citizenship shortly after his arrival. ***AP***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 20, 2001
24th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **1 Tim 4:12-16**
Gospel: **Lk 7:36-50**

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to share his meal, so he went to the Pharisee's home and as usual reclined on the sofa to eat. And it happened that a woman of this town, who was known as a sinner, heard that he was in the Pharisee's house. She brought a precious jar of perfume and stood behind him at his feet, weeping. She wet his feet with tears, she dried them with her hair and kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them.

The Pharisee who had invited Jesus was watching and thought, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what sort of person is touching him; isn't this woman a sinner?"

Then Jesus spoke to the Pharisee and said, "Simon, I have something to ask you." He answered, "Speak, master." And Jesus said, "Two people were in debt to the same creditor. One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. As they were unable to pay him back, he graciously canceled the debts of both. Now, which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, who was forgiven more." And Jesus said, "You are right." And turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? You gave me no water for my feet when I entered your house, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since she came in. You provided no oil for my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. This is why, I tell you, her sins, her many sins, are forgiven, because of her great love. But the one who is forgiven little, has little love."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." The others sitting with him at the table began to wonder, "Now this man claims to forgive sins!" But Jesus again spoke to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Commentary

When we forgive, we have nothing to lose, but gain. In Jesus' time, the Jews were taught to avoid associating with sinners, for fear of contamination. That's why, in the gospel reading, when a woman feared to be a sinner, approaches Jesus and shows her affection to him, his host, a Pharisee, is scandalized. Jesus as a learned Jew is supposed to know the law. However, Jesus wants to change this attitude. Sinners should not be avoided. In fact, they should be forgiven if they repent. Those who show faith in Jesus, no matter what they have done, will surely obtain God's forgiveness. Who are we to refuse our brothers and sisters who come to us in humility? In forgiveness, we win back our erring loved ones.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Rights of a stockholder—The registration of shares in a stockholder's name, the issuance of stock certificates, and the right to receive dividends which pertain to the shares are all rights that flow from ownership. Private respondent was able to establish prima facie ownership over the shares of stocks in question, through deeds of transfer of shares of stock of petitioner TCL Corporation. Petitioners could not repudiate these documents. Hence, the transfer of shares to him must be recorded on the corporation's stock and transfer book. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, TCL Sales Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 129777, January 5, 2001]

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Promo period is from September18 up to November 23, 2001

PRELIMINARY RAFFLE DRAWS

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1st Raffle Draw October 3, 2001	GMA/ Luzon	September 30, 2001	3 winners of P50,000 each 35 winners of 1 hp calculator
2nd Raffle Draw October 17, 2001	Visayas/ Mindanao	October 12, 2001	2 winners of P50,000 each 15 winners of 1 hp calculator
3rd Raffle Draw October 31, 2001	GMA/ Luzon	October 26, 2001	3 winners of P50,000 each 35 winners of 1 hp calculator 1 winner of Jornada PDA 1 winner of Nokia 6210 1 winner of hp CD Writer
4th Raffle Draw November 14, 2001	Visayas/ Mindanao	November 9, 2001	2 winners of P50,000 each 15 winners of 1 hp calculator 1 winner of Jornada PDA 1 winner of Nokia 6210 1 winner of hp CD Writer

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

November 28, 2001	Nationwide	November 23, 2001	1 winner of P1,000,000.00

A participant can only win once per raffle draw. If participant's name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize at stake for that particular draw date. Winners will be notified via press releases, registered mail and telephone. HP will shoulder 20% withholding tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00. To claim the prize, winners must present at least one (1) valid ID (driver's license, company ID, valid passport, etc.) as well as the registered mail notification. Prizes may be claimed at the hp Head Office: 9/F Rufino Pacific Tower 6784 Ayala Ave., 1229 Makati City, Philippines, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays only. Look for Jun Juntilla or Betty Bantigao. Provincial winners of calculators can claim their prizes at the Publicis Dialog office specified on the registered mail. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of HEWLETT-PACKARD Philippines, Corp. with prior approval from DTI. All employees of Hewlett-Packard Philippines Corp., its distributors, dealers, resellers, advertising and promotions agencies and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1389, Series of 2001.

Medical first: Transatlantic surgery by robot

PARIS—Doctors on Wednesday announced a groundbreaking operation in which a surgeon in New York operated on a patient on France, more than 7,000 km away, by remote-controlled robot.

The operation, which took place on Sept. 7, is the first time that robot surgery has been carried out over such a long distance, overcoming a major technical hurdle, they said.

During the 54-minute, experimental operation, a French doctor in New York removed the gall bladder. of a 68-year-old woman in Strasbourg.

He watched on a television screen and manipulated a pair of arms whose movements were mimicked by a robot in an operating theater on the other side of the Atlantic.

By remote control, he introduced into the woman's abdomen a slender tube called a laparoscope, equipped with a tiny fiber-optic camera, a scalpel and tweezers, and gently removed the suspect tissue.

The historic telesurgery was called the "Lindbergh operation," in tribute to the American aviator Charles Lindbergh, who in 1927 became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic.

"This is a genuine first," the head surgeon, Jacques Marescaux, who led a team from the Institute of Research into Cancer of the Digestive System (IRCAD), said.

"We can envisage that in the future surgical experts will be able to take part in or help an operation taking part anywhere in the world. In a few years, the robot will be standard equipment in any operating theater."

Gall bladder removal is often routine general surgery. Doctors have viewed such non-invasive operations as candidates for remote-controlled surgery, one of the most exciting frontiers in medicine today.

However, the biggest hurdle facing long-distance surgery is the time delay between when a surgeon moves the robot arm, its reception by the robot at the other end, and when the surgeon receives the return signal. A further complication is ensuring that the movement coincides exactly with the TV picture seen by the surgeon.

If the lag is too long or the picture slightly out of sync, that can destroy the surgeon's "feel" and timing, which are essential at certain points in an operation.

Until now, many experts contended that the lag was insurmountable, and suggested this would restrict remote surgery to a distance of only a few hundred kilometers from the doctor carrying out the operation.

Marescaux said the "Lindbergh operation" was only possible thanks to remarkable work to improve the speed of signals handling.

The surgeon needed a constant return signal speed of under 200 milliseconds, and a team from the French company France Telecom had been able to get this down to below 150 milliseconds, "a speed that is virtually imperceptible to the naked eye," Marescaux said. *AFP*

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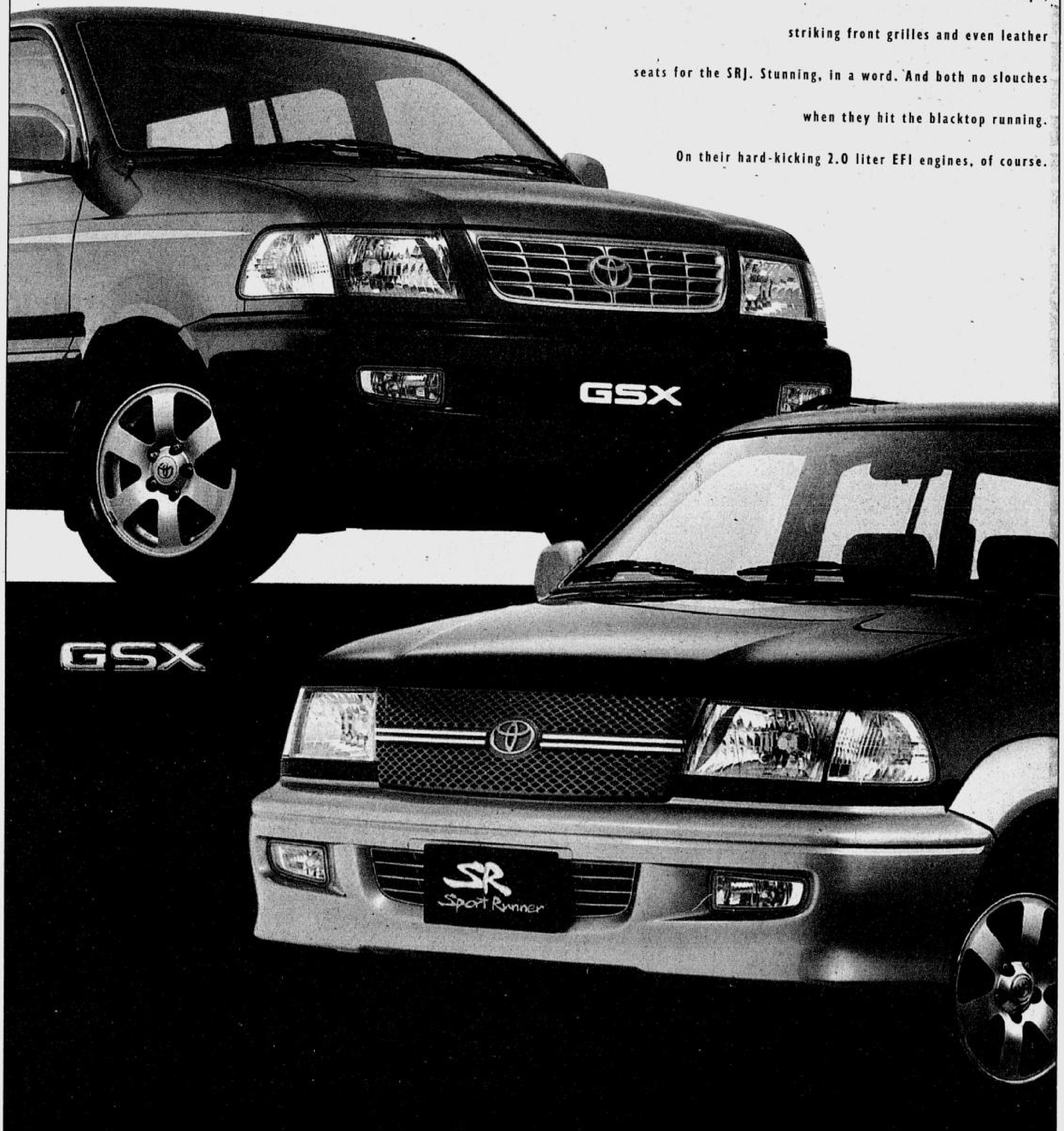

But can vehicles this gorgeous be as hardworking? Of course. We are talking about the Revo, after all. The Revo maybe all style and all sleek but it's also all business and all workhorse. Functional beauty used to be an oxymoron. The Revo just stopped making it so.

SR Sport Runner

TOYOTA

A10 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Across the NATION

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western and Southern Luzon, and the whole of Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/20/01

ROUNDUP

Japanese robbed

BATUAN, Masbate—A Japanese visitor lost more than P400,000 in cash and personal belongings to five intruders on Saturday at Barangay Canares here. Police identified the victim as Odaki Masaro, 48, visitor of Jose Lusano of the same place. Police said that the robbers forcibly entered the house of Lusano and robbed the Japanese at gunpoint. The robbers fled using three motorcycles, which were later recovered by Batuan police some three kilometers from Lusano's house.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Soldier runs amuck, is shot

LEGAZPI CITY—An angry resident of a coastal town in Masbate shot and wounded an Army man who ran amuck at a fiesta dance. Police identified the soldier as Ronald Avila, 30, of the Philippine Army and a resident of Mandaon, Masbate. Avila was shot and seriously wounded by Ronnel Villamor, 31, of the same place. Investigators said the soldier, armed with a .45 cal. pistol, challenged everyone at the dance to a gunfight. Villamor called the challenge and shot Avila, hitting him in different parts of the body. Avila was rushed to a hospital and is now in critical condition.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Woman killed in shooting

LEGAZPI CITY—A woman was killed while her husband and a son were hurt when they were shot by a neighbor on Saturday in Zone 3, Barangay Triangulo, Naga City. Police said Emelita Colico-Sanglay died on the spot while her husband Ramon and their 13-year-old son Ramir were wounded and are now being treated at the Bicol Medical Center. Police identified the suspect as Percival Sales who used a firearm of unknown caliber and fled after the incident. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rabies kills 16

DAVAO CITY—At least 16 people have died of rabies here during the first eight months of the year, according to a health official. Evelyn Papa, public health nurse at the City Health Office, said six of the fatalities were children below 15 years old. She said the victims did not seek medical help from doctors but resorted to *tandok*, a practice by quack doctors of making incisions on the skin and sucking blood from them. Garlic and other herbs are applied to the wounds. Papa said death from rabies could be reduced if owners immunized dogs and bite victims sought medical attention.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hot lumber seized

TACLOBAN CITY—At least P1 million worth of illegally cut lumber were seized during separate raids by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Albuera town on Sept. 14. Ramil Macalalad, DENR chief of legal and public affairs, said the joint team seized 4,270 board feet of freshly cut *lawaan* from the houses of Salvacion Barangay chair Rosendo Tarife and his son Walter, Eugenio Advincula and Wilfredo Abellanida. Macalalad said the suspects would be charged with illegal logging because they failed to present documents that would prove that the logs were legally cut. The logs were deposited at the DENR regional office in Tacloban City.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Erratum

THE FOURTH paragraph of the article "Sulu: 611 years of existence and war" which appeared Sept. 18 on page A14 of this paper said Abu Bkar, who married Rajah Baginda's daughter, became the first acknowledged sultan of Sulu. It was Abu Bkar who became Sharif-ul Hashim, not Baginda. Our apologies.

Silliman U seeks damages from land claimants

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Silliman University is seeking P400,000 in damages from some 50 members of a group called Exodus for occupying the archery range of the university in a bid to press their claim for ownership of the property.

In a petition filed on Monday, the university also asked the court to stop Exodus members from continuing with their protests inside the campus.

The Silliman University said the Exodus members "took the law into their own hands and disregarded the legal processes."

The move of the Exodus members, it said, casts a cloud on Silliman's ownership of the property and is likely to bring injustice to the university.

It asked the court to award the university P400,000 in exemplary damages to set an example to other groups that would copy the action of Exodus.

Aside from the damages, the university also sought P200,000 in attorney's fees.

Monday's case was the second filed by the university against the Exodus within a week.

The university earlier asked a court to cite the Exodus members for indirect contempt for disregarding an order issued by Judge Araceli Alafriz, directing them to intervene as heirs of the original landowners.

Samsodin Tahir, one of the lawyers of Silliman University, said the Exodus members occupied a portion of the property even if the case for ownership of the property remains pending before the court.

Tahir said they were still studying whether or not to file trespassing charges against the Exodus members.

Descendants of one Eugenia Ceriales have been camping out at the archery range since Sept. 9, claiming that they are the rightful owners of the land.

About six clans, including the Ceriales group, are descendants of some of the original landowners of a 60-hectare piece of property where the Silliman University now stands.

They banded and formed Exodus in 1999 to press for compensation from the university. They alleged that American missionaries, who founded the school a hundred years ago, defrauded their ancestors in the process of acquiring the property.

The Silliman University said the Exodus' claims were baseless, saying its land titles were in order.

'ANTI-TERROR' DRIVE

C. Luzon's No. 2 rebel falls

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The second highest ranking leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Central Luzon was captured in Pampanga in what police officials described as part of the "government's wide-ranging efforts against local terrorists."

Bernardo Bitong, 36, also known as Ka Joshua or Ka Jolas, was arrested on Sept. 16 in Barangay San Francisco in Lubao town.

He was presented to reporters only on Wednesday.

Bitong confirmed that he was a member of the CPP's regional party executive committee and assistant secretary of the Pampanga provincial party committee.

He said he was also the secretary of the New People's Army guerrilla front in Pampanga's northwest towns.

He said he was in Lubao to meet somebody whom he declined to identify.

A .45 cal. pistol and anti-government documents were confiscated from Bitong.

His companion, identified as Eduardo Abuque, an Aeta from Porac town, was also arrested. Abuque held a live hand grenade, a police report said.

Berroya said Bitong was arrested for the murder of Bienvenido Coronel and Jomar Montemayor, both barangay captains, in Lubao in 1999.

Berroya also identified Bitong as the principal suspect in the murder of Reynaldo Lagman, also known as Ka Karla, a leader of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines last Aug. 9.

Charges of illegal possession of firearms and a new murder case related to Lagman's killing were filed against Bitong in two courts in the province.

Abuque, on the other hand, maintained that he was not an NPA regular but a member of the Central Luzon Aeta Association.

"Bitong only asked me to assist him. We can't stop the NPA from roaming the mountains where we live," he told reporters.

The Army and the police claimed that Abuque, 34, was involved in the killing of a Philippine Air Force soldier identified only as M/Sgt. De la Torres last August.

A murder case was also filed against the Aeta.

Bitong and Abuque complained that since they were held last Sunday, police and Army officials did not provide them with public lawyers.

Bitong claimed he was physically harmed during his arrest while Abuque complained that he underwent physical and mental torture.

The two are detained at the Guagua municipal jail.

It was still uncertain what the arrests' effects would be on ongoing peace negotiations between the Philippine government and communist leaders.

The talks were suspended following the assassination of former Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

The government panel in the talks complained that communist leaders in self-exile in The Netherlands had even congratulated local guerrillas for succeeding in their murder plot against Aguinaldo.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Jail seen as shield from 'salvaging'

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Relatives and friends of suspected illegal drug users and pushers here have asked the police to arrest their relatives to save them from being executed by vigilante groups.

With information being offered by friends and relatives of suspected illegal drug pushers and users, police have recorded at least 16 arrests here.

Only four, however, were detained after policemen failed to find any evidence on the drug links of 12 other suspected users and pushers.

Detained and charged with possession of illegal drugs were Margarito Santos, 40; Zernon Serrano, 26; Pepito Edia, 47; and Feliciano Morales, 35.

For the last three weeks here, gunmen believed to be members of vigilante groups gunned down suspected drug pushers.

"A lot of people approached me. They were worried that their children or husbands might be the next victims. So even though they are not sure if their relatives are pushers or users, they want the police to arrest and jail them for the meantime," Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said in Filipino.

On Sept. 4, armed men, believed to be members of a vigilante group, shot and killed a suspected drug pusher in Hagonoy town.

Joselito Evangelista, 37, was the third victim of such killings in the last two months in the province.

Police said Evangelista had records of imprisonment at the municipal jail here due to the illegal drug trade.

Witnesses told police that before the suspects fled aboard a passenger jeepney, they shouted, "*Marami pang* pusher *ang susunod* (More drug pushers would suffer his fate)."

Last month, two suspected drug pushers, identified as Carlos Galang, 34, and Crisanto Manansala, 65, were gunned down by suspected members of a vigilante group. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Funds for disaster response fast dwindling

COTABATO CITY—Lack of funds is hounding the country's relief agency and its effects reverberate down to the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), one of the most calamity-prone regions in the country.

Only relief assistance and rehabilitation programs can be extended to people displaced and affected by man-made or natural calamities.

"We cannot afford reconstruction activities," said retired general Melchor Rosales, civil defense administrator and chief executive officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Rosales was the main guest at a round-table discussion of the RDCC-ARMM.

The provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi are prone to calamities, both man-made and natural.

Rosales said that his office has a remaining budget of about P200 million out of the P900 million that was allocated for the agency this year.

"We still have four calamitous months ahead of us and this makes the Philippine disaster management (program) even more financially precarious and depleted," Rosales told RDCC officials here.

"We cannot totally prevent these (calamities) but what we can do is to become always ready in times of disaster as much as possible so that we can minimize the ruins," he said.

He said government agencies could still respond to calamities using funds that are available to them.

He added that there was a need, too, for local government units and agencies to raise their state of preparedness by using the powers that had been devolved to them from national government offices.

International relief organizations have somehow provided a breathing space for families displaced by calamities in Maguindanao and other ARMM provinces, he said.

But even before foreign relief agencies could complete rehabilitation and relief assistance to victims, another calamity takes place.

Rosales said "our enough is really not enough," adding that damages brought about by recent typhoons in Luzon amounted to more than P1.1 billion, bigger than his agency's annual budget.

In Maguindanao, recent flash floods disrupted the lives of 15,900 families in 126 villages and killed at least 22 people.

The hardest hit towns in Maguindanao were Sultan sa Barongis, Mamasapano, Shariff Aguak, Talayan and Ampatuan. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tribesmen attack NPAs, kill 5 rebels

BY FERDINAND ZUASOLA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—At least five communist guerrillas were killed after Mandaya *lumads* declared a *pangayaw* or tribal war against the New People's Army since Saturday in Barangay Binondo here, military and civilian sources said yesterday.

Major Alexis Gopico, commander of the Army's 8th Special Forces, said the *pangayaw*, reportedly triggered by a series of harassment committed by the rebels against the *lumads*, lasted until Monday.

He said the Army had to send reinforcements for fear of NPA retaliation against the *lumads*.

Lawyer Alejandro Aquino, leader of the Tribal Professionals and Students Solidarity, reported to the provincial governor's office in Mati that at least six rebels were also wounded when the tribesmen attacked a group of NPA guerrillas resting in Sitio Tigbawan.

Karapatan-Mindanao, a human rights group, said some 70 heavily armed Mandaya *lumads* from Caraga town swooped down on the house of a certain Panchito Silat in Sitio Tigbawan in Barangay Binondo here, where some 20 rebels were resting on Saturday.

Karapatan said the *lumad* warriors opened fire at the house using firearms supplied by the town mayors of Caraga and Baganga.

The human rights group said it was investigating the shooting after reports that some of those who were hurt were civilians.

A barangay official said six persons were captured by the Mandaya warriors but denied that they were rebels.

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Ex-gov grenade attack target

CANDAO

COTABATO CITY—Two unidentified men attacked with hand grenades the house of former Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao on the corner of Rosal and Rosales Streets here Tuesday night.

The attack came two days before the start of the 10th Mindanao Business Conference, the biggest gathering of local and international businessmen here.

President Macapagal-Arroyo would be the main guest and speaker at the conference.

No one was hurt in the 8:45 p.m. attack, the second on Candao's house since Sept. 15.

Chief Insp. Saiben Akmad, police station 2 chief, said two men riding in a motorcycle tossed two grenades at Candao's house amid a heavy downpour.

One of the fragmentation grenades went off while the other failed to explode and was safely recovered by bomb experts.

Candao was not at home during the attack.

Interviewed by radio station dxMS from Manila, Candao said a team of about 14 people was dispatched to Cotabato City to assassinate him either by gun or grenade attacks.

He did not say who ordered the alleged plot to kill him.

On Sept. 15, motorcycle-riding men also lobbed a hand grenade at Candao's home but it did not explode.

"I believe it was politically motivated," Candao said.

The former governor is contesting the results of the recent elections in Maguindanao where his arch-rival, Datu Andal Ampatuan, was proclaimed winner. His protest is pending before the Comelec.

"I am convinced it has something to do with the political controversies (in the province)," Candao said, adding that in his 20 years in politics, this was the first time he became the target of a grenade attack.

Ampatuan, too, had been target of attacks, two of which came when he started serving his term as governor of the province.

Last month, Ampatuan's convoy was ambushed in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, leaving eight persons wounded.

Two months ago, his convoy was also ambushed in Barangay Salimbao, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. One of his escorts was killed.

Akmad said security had been tightened in Candao's house to prevent another attack. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Seized bags of rice disappear in Naga

NAGA CITY—At least 27,000 sacks of smuggled rice, which were seized by the Bureau of Customs, have been missing since Monday, a member of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Services (CIIS) revealed.

The CIIS agent, who requested anonymity, said the smuggled rice was supposedly deposited in a warehouse owned by a certain Lilia Maleniza-Prieto.

He said Oscar Imperial, acting port collector of Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, could not explain the disappearance of the cargo.

Imperial was the one who received the shipment.

Marcial Lopez, customs collector, confirmed to the INQUIRER that the smuggled rice was missing.

Lopez said Imperial submitted a report after an investigation was ordered.

However, he said the bureau should not be held responsible for the rice's disappearance because the cargo owner, a certain Nieves Uy, executed an affidavit that she would be "responsible for any loss, pilferage and damage that may happen to the rice."

The rice was shipped on board the MV Ronan and was listed as having come from Iloilo. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NBI files raps vs Pagadian bombing suspect

PAGADIAN CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation on Tuesday filed charges of multiple murder and frustrated multiple murder against a 55-year-old suspect in the Sept. 4 bombing of a bus terminal here that killed three people and seriously wounded nine others.

Lawyer Glenn Eric Peralta, an NBI agent, said Johnny Ayani, a resident of Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur, was identified by witnesses as the man who planted explosives inside the Cerilles Bus Terminal on that day.

However, Ayani, who was arrested on Saturday afternoon, denied any hand in the bombing.

But Peralta said the witnesses, including a 9-year-old boy from Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay, were positive that Ayani was the man who planted the bomb.

The boy said he and his mother arrived here on board a ferryboat from Zamboanga City in the morning of Sept. 4 and proceeded to the terminal.

He said that while waiting for the bus to depart for Malangas, he alighted and urinated on its rear tire.

It was while relieving himself that he saw the suspect crawl under a bus.

"I saw a man crawl underneath the Dannylyn Express 3 bus and place a carton (under the bus)," the boy said.

After this, he said the man hurriedly left.

After the explosion, the same man came back and then disappeared again.

Another witness, a woman in her early 30s also corroborated the boy's testimony. She said Ayani was walking very fast when "I met him at the left side of the bus and told me not to go near the bus because a bomb was in it."

The revelation of the boy and the corroborating statement of the woman "are very vital in this case," Peralta said.

The boy and the woman, during a police lineup, identified Ayani. Peralta said the boy showed no hesitation when he pointed at Ayani.

Although not certain which group Ayani belonged to, Peralta said the NBI suspects that a ranking official or a big-time syndicate leader could be backing the suspect as this early, some people have started lobbying for his release.

Peralta said this was proof that Ayani is not just a fisherman as he claims to be.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Girl Scouts founder honored

LAOAG CITY—For the first time, Ilocandia's renowned daughter who founded the Girl Scout movement in the country will be given a special tribute today with President Macapagal-Arroyo declaring Sept. 20 as Escoda Day throughout the country.

The President set aside a day in honor of Josefa Llanes Escoda, a native of Dingras, Ilocos Norte, and founder of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

Escoda joins the ranks of Ilocandia's heroes like the late Ilocos Norte Gov. Roque Ablan Sr., a war hero, who are being paid tribute for their contributions.

Ms Macapagal, in Proclamation No. 77 signed on July 31, described Escoda as "one of the country's most outstanding Filipino women who championed the cause of civil and social services."

Today, however, remains a working day throughout the country. But the President has allowed residents of Ilocos Norte and Laoag City the opportunity to celebrate the day by declaring Sept. 20, Escoda's 103rd birth anniversary, as a special non-working day.

In Dingras, Mayor Robert Castro will lead officials and residents in a program marking the event.

Castro, who extended his gratitude to the President for honoring their favorite daughter, said Sept. 20 used to be a special working holiday with only Dingras residents pausing from their work to mark the occasion.

"This day is very significant to us because one of our own is being recognized throughout the country," Castro said.

Town officials have erected a marker on a lot in front of the town hall where the Escoda family's ancestral house used to stand. Beside the structure is Escoda's statue and a museum housing the late GSP founder's memorabilia.

In 1998, Escoda's centennial birth anniversary, delegations of girl scouts from around the world trooped to Dingras to mark the event. The participants were leaders of girl scouts councils from the United States, London and Asia. *Cristina Arzadon and Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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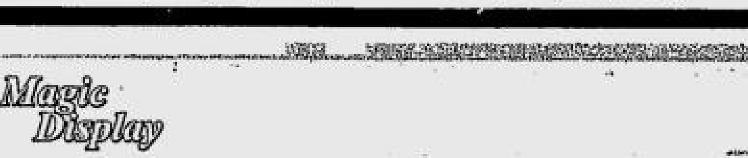

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US told it can't win war

(From page A1)

States is not planning—and I am convinced will never plan—to bring in a big contingent of ground troops with the goal of occupying Afghanistan," he said.

Lessons

Renowned warriors, the Afghans have staved off many a foreign enemy. The Soviets and the British were both dealt bloody and humiliating defeats by the warrior clans of the poor country, where the hostile topography poses a challenge for any would-be invader.

The Soviet Union's 10-year occupation ended in 1989 in disgrace with more than 15,000 of its soldiers dead.

When the withdrawal finally came, the last soldiers scurried out of the country across the northern Oxus River, guarding their backs against guerrillas.

It turned out to be the last great Cold War battle. Less than 10 months after its pullout from Afghanistan, the Soviet Union collapsed and shattered into a dozen independent states.

British history is not encouraging, either.

The British empire fought three major wars in Afghanistan between 1830 and 1920, trying to impose its control over the country but repeatedly suffering heavy losses and brutal massacres at the hands of its highly independent tribesmen.

The worst came in 1842 when several thousand British and Indian soldiers, women and children and thousands of camp followers were slaughtered by Afghan fighters as they tried to retreat through the deep mountain passes out of Afghanistan.

Rock by rock

Now it may be the United States' turn to try a foray into the Afghan quagmire, if it seeks to ferret out Osama bin Laden and to punish the hardline Islamic Taliban movement, which has given him refuge since 1996.

First, the United States must find Bin Laden.

His global terrorist network, al-Qaida or The Base, is thought to operate out of hidden bases and caves honeycombing the mountain ranges that crisscross Afghanistan. The network and affiliated groups operating in the country are believed to number up to 10,000 members.

According to Pakistani intelligence sources, Bin Laden went into deeper hiding within minutes of hearing of last week's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and now could be taking refuge in one of a dozen hideouts.

Even if US officials are certain that he is in Afghanistan, it may be impossible to find him there, Aushev said in a telephone interview Tuesday from the Russian region of Ingushetia, of which he is president.

"It's as easy to lose yourself in the mountains as in the jungle," he said. "They'll find him only if they're ready to go over 500,000 square kilometers rock by rock."

War in the shadows

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has already stressed that the war on terrorism will rely more on unconventional military methods than on traditional weapons like bombers, tanks and warships.

"These are people who operate in the shadows, and we have to deal with them in the shadows," Rumsfeld said.

The United States would not be able to repeat the 1991 Gulf War scenario of collecting a large ground force in a neighboring nation and invading.

None of the countries around Afghanistan provide a likely staging ground, and any invading force would have to work its way through mountain ranges along the borders.

A retired Pakistani general, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there cannot be a large-scale ground operation. Instead, the strategy should be an air assault and more pinpoint operations by specialized ground troops, he said.

He said cruise missiles should be used to target Bin Laden's mountain hideouts and Taliban leaders. He suggested that the United States also carpet bomb Taliban positions on front lines as the latter battle Afghan opposition forces.

Helicopter gunships could ferry in troops for clean-up operations and provide air cover, said the Pakistani.

On the other hand, because of the abundance of hiding places, missile strikes without a ground operation are destined to be nothing but "noise, aimed at showing the government is doing something," Zelenov said.

Deep exhaustion

Khulkar Yusupov, who covered the Soviet war for the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, said he doubted the United States could pinpoint military targets and avoid heavy civilian casualties.

During the Soviet war, Yusupov was most disturbed by the suffering among the already impoverished civilian population.

"You can't just pinpoint one gorge there. If you hit one gorge, you hit all the nearby villages," he said.

Viewed from another angle, any US operation could be helped by the deep exhaustion of most Afghans after 23 years of non-stop war.

After the Soviet occupation, violence among rival factions killed more than 50,000 people. And fighting between the Taliban and the northern-based opposition alliance has continued since the Islamic fundamentalist militia took power in 1996.

There have been reports of chemical and biological weapons being tested in Afghan training camps.

One Taliban security officer, who accompanied Bin Laden to a camp in eastern Kunar province, said he saw a North Korean training the militants in chemical weapons. It was impossible to independently confirm his report. *Reports from Associated Press*

What kind of Muslims are the Afghan Taliban?

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—What manner of Muslims are Afghanistan's ruling Taliban? What sort of government is harboring suspected terrorist leader Osama bin Laden?

A religious regime that has demolished grand Buddhist artworks, ended schooling for girls past the age of 8, decreed that Hindus must wear identification patches and imprisoned eight western aid workers for allegedly preaching their Christian faith.

According to the zealous Taliban, who have ruled Afghanistan since 1996, fidelity to Islam requires unprecedented harshness.

The only allowable music for Muslims there is religious song, unaccompanied by instruments. Television, movies and videos are banned. So is kite-flying, seen as a distraction from a life of prayer.

The Taliban rules are meticulously enforced by religious police patrols from the omnipresent Ministry of Virtue and Vice. The "virtue" squads coordinate Islamic education, while "vice" squads stamp out forbidden evils and enforce the movement's conception of "pure" Islam.

An Afghan scholar in the United States, Amin Tarzi, charged that his homeland's rulers feed off the people's "illiteracy and lack of knowledge of traditional Islamic teachings."

Overall, said Tarzi, the Taliban are creating a variant that Islam has never before seen. In his view it extends far beyond the Wahhabi movement, the puritanical Islamic reform imposed in Saudi Arabia beginning in the 19th century that is Osama bin Laden's inspiration.

"This is absolutely new," Tarzi said. "No other Islamic country comes close."

One notable incident this year caused worldwide outrage. The Taliban's reclusive leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, on Feb. 26 ordered demolition of two monumental mountain carvings of the Buddha on grounds that they violated Islam's ban on idol worship.

Some tenets come from literal interpretation of the Quran, said Prof. Anis Ahmed of Pakistan's Islamic University, but "if you take things literally that will lead to extremism."

The Muslim world has largely spurned the Taliban up to now. The Organization of the Islamic Conference refused to admit the regime and only three of the 56 member nations (Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates) have granted it full diplomatic recognition.

The Taliban emerged in 1994, promising peace to the war-ravaged land of 21 million and rebelling against Islamic factions whose conflicts had killed 50,000 people. *AP*

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4 terrorists in US attacks visited Manila

(From page A1)

having left the Philippines on Feb. 12, 2000.

The four were among the 19 persons listed by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation as the hijackers of the planes used in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Domingo said four men bearing those names, all Saudi nationals, arrived in the Philippines as tourists starting in 1999 up to the present. Each was admitted upon arrival for a period of 21 days without a visa.

There were no indications to show that the four were indeed the suspected hijackers or just had the same names, Domingo said.

Domingo said the bureau was trying to retrieve the arrival and departure cards that the four men presented to the immigration countersat the Naia so that authorities could trace their movements while they were in the country.

"The cards would help investigators determine the identities of other possible foreign terrorists and their local cohorts whom the hijackers had met with or contacted when they came to Manila," she said.

Background check

Domingo said the bureau had also begun conducting a background check on 340 students from the Middle East, South Asia and Africa, including 12 taking up aviation courses at the Philippine Aeronautics Training School in Pasay City.

She said the foreign students were from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, Jordan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq and Palestine.

The move is apparently part of an international effort to identify the links of those who perpetrated the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

According to US investigators, the hijackers of the planes used in the attacks were Islamic militants with links to suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden's organization is known to have links with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group holding 18 hostages including an American couple in the island-province of Basilan.

Agence France-Presse quoted Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as saying that the Abu Sayyaf's link to international terrorist networks was "strong until 1995," after which contacts waned.

"But there are new efforts to maintain the links," he said without elaborating.

In 1995 Manila police arrested one of the suspects of the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center that left six people dead. Abdul Hakim Murad was handed over to the United States, which sentenced him to life imprisonment in 1996.

"The (terrorist) threat is very, very clear considering that we have the Abu Sayyaf here," Reyes told reporters. *Reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, AP, AFP*

FBI files first criminal charges against 3 suspects

(From page A1)

lic and private e-mail systems to communicate.

The government also announced a new policy giving immigration authorities during emergencies two days or longer, up from one day, to decide whether to charge an alien with status violations. Many of those questioned in Tuesday's attack were being detained on immigration violations.

Deport without evidence

The Justice Department also has drafted legislation that would allow the attorney general to arrest and deport suspected terrorists without presenting evidence in a court, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Attorney General John Ashcroft promised to use "every legal means at our disposal to prevent further terrorist activity by taking people into custody who have violated the law and who may pose a threat to America."

Ashcroft said publicly for the first time that authorities were probing whether more flights had been targeted for hijackings. Four of the planes hijacked on Sept. 11 crashed.

The restructuring of the investigation included the creation of anti-terrorism task forces by every federal prosecutor's office in the country.

"These task forces will be a part of a national network that will coordinate the dissemination of information and the development of a strategy to disrupt, dismantle and punish terrorist organizations throughout the country," he said.

Grand jury probe

The effort was being aided by a grand jury investigative panel in the New York suburb of White Plains that subpoenas witnesses and determines whether to file indictments against suspects. Officials said other grand juries would likely be used around the country to issue subpoenas and gather evidence.

The three men in Detroit, from Morocco and Algeria, were arrested on charges of identity fraud and misuse of visas.

During a search of the men's residence, FBI agents observed a day planner containing notations on the "American base in Turkey," the "American foreign minister" and "Alia Airport" in Jordan, according to an FBI affidavit filed in the case.

"The day planner also contained handwritten sketches of what appeared to be a diagram of an airport flight line, to include aircraft and runways," the affidavit said.

Federal documents identified the men as Karim Koubriti, 23; Ahmed Hannan, 33; and Farouk Ali-Haimoud, 21.

Saudi doctor

Among the four material witnesses under arrest was Albader Alhazmi, 34, a Saudi national and Saudi-trained doctor who was doing a medical residency in radiology at University of Texas Health Science Center, a law enforcement official said. He was being held in New York.

Alhazmi did not show up for his radiologist job on Sept. 11, the day of the attacks.

He had been working at a military hospital inside the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio during the week before the attacks, said an official at the medical center.

Evidence emerged Tuesday that the FBI had tracked the activities of one Arab man who was seeking jetliner training in the weeks before Tuesday's attacks.

The FBI came by the Airman Flight School in Norman, Oklahoma, about two weeks before the terrorist attacks, inquiring about Zacarias Moussaoui, who is now in custody in New York in the investigation.

The FBI had a picture of Moussaoui and asked if people at the school could identify him. They also asked about his mannerisms and what he did at the school, said admissions director Brenda Keene.

Moussaoui was detained Aug. 17 in Minnesota on immigration issues after he aroused suspicions by seeking to buy time on a flight simulator for jetliners at a Minnesota flight school, law enforcement officials said.

Authorities also detained a man in San Diego, California, who was linked through financial transactions to two of the 19 hijackers, officials said.

Also in California, investigators are questioning a foreign national who may have been a roommate of a suspected hijacker in last week's terrorist attacks. Tarek Mohamed Fayad, 33, was taken into custody Monday in Los Angeles. *AP*

Taliban chief defiant; blames US for Sept. 11

(From page A1)

would agree to extradite the man whom US President George W. Bush wants "dead or alive."

Omar said Bin Laden, reportedly both his father-in-law and son-in-law, would not be extradited without clear evidence and dismissed US allegations against the Saudi-born Islamic fundamentalist as a pretext to wage war on Islam.

"Islam is a true way of life and our enemies and those against our religion believe that we are their enemies," Omar told the clerics.

"They are trying to finish us on various pretexts. One of their pretexts is Osama bin Laden's presence in Afghanistan."

Omar will have the final say over Bin Laden's fate.

"We have said that if there is evidence establishing Osama's guilt, this evidence should be handed over to the Afghan Supreme Court, or let ulema (religious scholars) from three Islamic countries or the (Organization of Islamic Conference) keep an eye on Osama, but America has rejected all our suggestions," he said.

"We appeal to the American government to show patience. We want the Americans to get undeniable evidence and search for the real culprits," he added, saying the perpetrators would be found in the United States itself.

Without mentioning jihad, he urged the ulema to issue a *fatwa* (learned opinion) "if America insists on attacking Afghanistan and killing our innocent and oppressed people."

The tough signal came as Islamic groups in neighboring Pakistan stepped up their opposition to Islamabad's pledge of cooperation, and the United States and Western embassies began pulling out the families of their diplomats and non-essential staff for fear of unrest.

At least three US aircraft carriers were heading to undisclosed destinations yesterday.

'Death to America'

Afghans at a teeming refugee camp in Pakistan urged the Muslim clerics in Afghanistan not to hand over Bin Laden, as Pakistan's most important Islamic council issued a fatwa calling for holy war against the United States and its allies if they attack Afghanistan.

Council Vice Chairman Maulana Naseeruddin said rallies and "Death to America" conferences would be held around the country on Friday.

"The Pakistan Ulema Council has called for a jihad against America and its allies if they attack Afghanistan. The attack will be an act of terrorism," the council said.

"It is the duty of all the Muslims in the world to protect Muslim countries and Muslims, and the people of Pakistan and the ulema (Muslim scholars) will not let America destroy the interests and identity of Pakistan and Afghanistan."

In Jalozai, a squalid refugee camp about an hour's drive from Afghanistan, residents said extraditing Bin Laden would be an insult to Islam.

"We are sad over the killing of people in New York and Washington, but does that mean that America should kill innocent civilians in Afghanistan?" asked 22-year-old Fazil Rahim, a refugee.

"There is no need for another attack. Afghanistan is already attacked," said 25-year-old Asmatullah, referring to the two decades of civil war and hunger the country has already endured.

As the adults spoke, a 10-year-old boy named Tarek chimed in: "I will go to Afghanistan to fight the jihad."

'We'll suck their blood'

Not many miles away, thousands of people marched through the streets of Peshawar, a Pakistani city near the Afghan border, shouting pro-Taliban slogans and burning an American flag.

President Pervez Musharraf has been trying to explain his pro-Washington stance to Pakistan's public, politicians and religious groups, but winning the hearts and minds of poor and disenfranchised Pakistanis will be a daunting task.

"Will you fight the jihad if America attacks Afghanistan?" the protesters' leader, Mulana Abdul Malik, shouted over a loudspeaker.

"Yes!" roared the crowd.

"Will you obey the call of (Taliban leader) Mullah Omar?" he asked. "Yes! Yes!"

Shop owners shuttered their businesses as demonstrators marched, many wielding sticks and waving banners.

"Crush America!" read one sign. "Osama is the hero of Islam," read another.

"Let the Americans come to Pakistan so that we can meet them face to face and show them what we're made of," Malik shouted to the crowd.

"The people will suck their blood," declared Wazir Khan, a Pakistani laborer.

The Islamabad embassies of the United States, the 15-nation European Union, Australia and Canada all indicated that non-essential staff and the dependents of diplomats are leaving the country or preparing to do so because of concern about possible unrest.

But diplomats stressed that there was no emergency evacuation under way.

'Unfortunate'

In Kabul, the clerics' meeting in the rocket-damaged Presidential Palace opened with the reading of a speech from Omar: "Osama has denied his involvement. It is unfortunate that America does not listen to us and levels all sorts of charges and threatens military action.

"If America still wants to attack us . . . and to destroy the Islamic government of Afghanistan, we want to get the religious decision from you, our respected religious scholars."

As the meeting, which was closed to the general public, got under way, dozens of turbaned Taliban soldiers armed with rocket-launchers and Kalashnikov rifles stood guard outside the giant cement walls that surround the palace, lined with gaping holes from years of fighting in Kabul.

The meeting took place after talks Monday between the Taliban and top military officials from Pakistan, who warned him of devastating consequences for Afghanistan if Bin Laden is not handed over quickly and without conditions. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Bush using carrot, stick to whip up coalition

(From page A1)

largely to Western democracies. US Secretary of State Colin Powell has been reaching out to Arab and Muslim countries in recent days.

Pakistan, Indonesia and Jordan—perhaps even Sudan or Cuba—may get carrots.

US officials have made overtures to Sudan and Cuba as potential sources of information on the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. While both countries are on the US government's list of nations accused of backing terrorism, Cuba strongly condemned the attacks and Sudan issued a strong statement of support for the United States.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who heads to Washington on Thursday at Bush's invitation, has quickly emerged as America's strongest international ally in the anti-terrorism war.

French President Jacques Chirac has pledged his nation's full support, and Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday that if asked, his country would provide troops to support any US military action.

But Gen. Anatoly Kvashnin, chief of Russia's General Staff, said Wednesday that Moscow had no plans to participate in a US strike on Afghanistan.

He made the announcement after meeting with Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmonov.

Russia maintains a 25,000-strong force, including border guards and army troops, in Tajikistan to patrol the 1,206-kilometer border that the former Soviet republic shares with Afghanistan.

Tajikistan has said it would cooperate with the United States to fight international terrorism.

More, little

US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Tuesday that the type of assistance countries could offer in the anti-terrorism campaign would vary.

The range includes law enforcement cooperation, "particular groups or individuals we want to look at" and money flow, he said.

Said Fleischer: "Some nations are going to be able to do more. Some nations are going to be able to do an awful lot. Other nations may be only able to do a little."

Sen. Sam Brownback said Pakistan should be rewarded for assisting the United States in pressuring the Taliban to turn over Bin Laden and for agreeing to provide air space rights for possible US military action.

"The United States is going to have to show the people in Pakistan that it's good to be in a good relationship with the United States," said Brownback, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee.

Pakistan has been under US sanctions because of its nuclear weapons program and the ouster of its democratic government two years ago by Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the current president.

Indonesia and Jordan, both Islamic countries that have spoken strongly against the Sept. 11 attacks, may receive a heightened interest from the Bush administration regarding proposed trade agreements.

For Indonesia, there may also be the possibility of a renewal of military ties, suspended at the time of the upheaval in East Timor.

Nonstop work

Blair has used the same "war" terminology as Bush, and has worked nonstop to build international support for action against the perpetrators of the attacks.

"Obviously it is important that we build the maximum consensus, and there is a genuine consensus developing, not just in terms of condemning what happened but also in agreeing to the need to act against mass terrorism," said a spokesperson at Blair's 10 Downing Street office, speaking with customary anonymity.

Blair is due to fly to the United States Thursday after a frenetic round of talks with European leaders that will see him sitting down to dinner with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Wednesday evening and breakfast the next day with Chirac.

Downing Street said Blair would fly from Paris to New York to meet relatives of the hundreds of British victims in the attack and to thank the emergency workers, before heading to Washington to see Bush.

He is due to return to Europe Friday for an emergency European Union summit.

"This is about tackling mass terrorism in the short, medium and long term," said Blair's spokesperson. "It is important that we understand each other's positions as well as possible."

In the past few days, Blair has consulted leaders such as Pakistan's Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's Jiang Zemin by phone, welcomed Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to Downing Street, and met African leaders from Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Botswana, Tanzania and Mozambique at his country estate.

Australia's Howard said the terrorist attacks were also attacks on the freedom and values that his country held in common with the United States.

"We leave open the option of any kind of military involvement that we are capable of and would be appropriate. And, yes, that includes troops," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

To date, Australia's main contribution has been to leave its Navy frigate HMAS Anzac on patrol in the Persian Gulf at the request of the United States. The Anzac, which carries 164 sailors, had been due to return home this week.

Defense Minister Peter Reith said 295 Australian military personnel were already in the United States for reasons ranging from consular duties to working with combat units.

"About 28 are involved in American combat units of some sort or another and could be deployed at any time within the US or abroad," Reith said.

Effective interaction

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived in Washington late Tuesday and called on nations to "interact more effectively" to fight global terrorism.

Ivanov was to meet with Bush and Powell on Wednesday.

But Kvashnin told reporters in Tajikistan that "Russia has not considered and is not planning to consider participation in a military operation against Afghanistan."

Last week, Russian officials indicated they would not welcome the use of the former Soviet republics in Central Asia, which Moscow considers its own backyard, as a launching pad for US strikes on Afghanistan. *Reports from AP*

Probers: Osama may have made killing in stocks

(From page A1)

Anyone who had bet on their decline by buying put options—bets that prices would fall—or through short-selling would have made money. Short-sellers borrow stock and sell it in anticipation of buying it back later at a lower price.

Publicly available options trading records show unidentified investors placed exceptionally high numbers of put options on the stocks of United and American, the two airlines targeted in the attacks. There was no such trend involving other carriers.

It's difficult to calculate at this stage how much money was spent on last week's suicide jet attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

But experts say the whole operation—including pilot training, accommodation, travel expenses and first class tickets for the hijackers—couldn't have cost more than $1 million, a sum Bin Laden could easily afford.

Bin Laden's wealth and his connections with prosperous families in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations were not a cause of worry to Western countries, including the United States, in the 1980s.

Then, he was one of the good guys, using the funds to buy arms and supplies for the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan, a crusade backed by the United States in battle against communism.

But at that time, experts say, Bin Laden also started putting down the roots for one of the world's most extensive financial networks, one that would eventually bankroll his group, al-Qaida, Arabic for "the base."

Alms for Arab fighters

During that period, he succeeded in persuading Muslim clergymen in several Arab countries to issue a religious edict making it legal for Muslims to offer their zakat, alms given annually to the poor, to the Arab fighters in the Afghan war.

"Money poured in from millions of Muslims who supported his quest to expel the infidels from Muslim lands," said Salman, managing editor of Beirut's newspaper As-Safir.

He believes that many of those donors are still giving money to Bin Laden even though the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989.

On Tuesday—following US pressure on Saudi Arabia—Saudi businessmen said their country had started to crack down on such donations—which usually yielded $1 million to $2 million a month.

Al-Qaida funds more than its own operations. Alex Standish, editor of Jane's Intelligence Digest, calls the group "the merchant bank for terrorism" in that it often supports small, free-lance, militant groups in attacks against American or other Western interests.

Money for terrorism is likely moved around by transfers between businesses and by couriers carrying cash.

It's been hard for authorities to track Bin Laden's assets and freeze them because they're tied to front companies that seem legitimate.

Some of Bin Laden's front companies were engaged in food processing, ostrich raising, trading in diamonds and construction, according to Standish.

As recently as seven months ago, US authorities detailed in open court an extensive network of companies and bank accounts established by Bin Laden and his terror group.

Witnesses during the trial of suspects charged in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa identified businesses that al-Qaida ran in Sudan to obtain equipment and cash and provide favors for the Sudanese government.

Jamal Ahmed al-Fadl, a Bin Laden associate turned government witness, recounted a 1992 meeting at which Bin Laden was asked if the companies had to make money.

Speaking in broken English, al-Fadl testified: "He say our agenda is bigger than business. We are not going to make business here, but we need to help the government and the government help our group, and this is our purpose."

Bin Laden was charged in connection with the 1998 embassy bombings but has never been captured. He and the ruling Taliban Islamic militia in Afghanistan, where Bin Laden is believed hiding, have long denied terrorist involvement.

The embassy bombings case provides a glimpse of the money behind Bin Laden's financing.

In Sudan, "Bin Laden and his group began taking actions to prepare to do battle with his enemies, particularly the United States," prosecutor Paul Butler told jurors during opening statements in the trial last February.

Al-Qaida's Hijra Construction Co. built the Thawri (revolutionary) Road from Khartoum to Port Sudan for the Sudanese government, which paid by giving al-Qaida ownership of the Khartoum Tannery, according to court records.

Peanuts and sunflowers

Bin Laden and al-Qaida also ran the Themar al Mubaraka farming businesses, growing peanuts, fruit, sesame, white corn, sunflowers and wheat, according to testimony.

Products were run through other countries, including Cyprus, to evade international sanctions against Sudan and allow for a more profitable sale in Europe and America, a testimony showed.

Several crops were grown on a farm near Ed Damazin in eastern Sudan that also was used for weapons and explosives training, according to the testimony.

Al-Qaida also ran a fishing business on the coast of Kenya used to support members of a terrorist cell there, prosecutors alleged. *AP*

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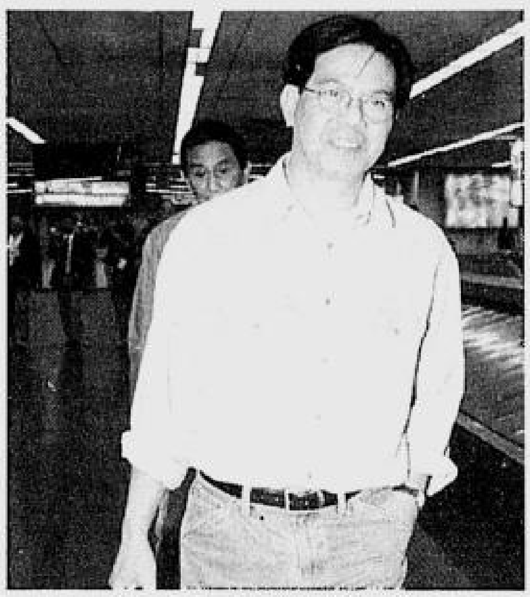


ROGER MARGALLO

A BAGFUL of evidence to clear his name, according to Senator Lacson as he arrived from the United States Wednesday night.

Ping back . . .

(From page A1)

onboard Cathay Pacific Airlines Flight 903.

Col. Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), has accused Lacson of laundering about $211 million in banks in Hong Kong, Canada and the United States.

Corpus said Lacson's money came from kidnapping, drug trafficking and smuggling.

Lacson, whose only luggage was a black bag, was in casual blue jeans and blue rubber sneakers when he arrived in Manila.

Jerome Tang, a close friend of the senator, accompanied him.

Lacson refused to give more information on the documents.

"You just wait until I present them to the Senate committee conducting an investigation of the charges hurled against me by Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus," said the former head of the Philippine National Police and the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

"I went purposely to the US to get these documents to prove to my detractors that they were lying," Lacson said.

Upon disembarkation, he walked briskly at the Naia with members of the media closely following him. He kept on saying "that's all I can say for now."

Nobody welcomed him at the airport. He went straight to a vehicle at the parking lot. ***With reports from Roger Margallo***

'RP troops . . .

(From page A1)

Commission on Human Rights (CHR) yesterday joined in the continuing debate on whether the country should go to war with the United States.

"It is timely that the government should launch an all-out effort, military or otherwise, against the Abu Sayyaf. That could be a better contribution to the fight against terrorism rather than sending troops," Marohomsalic said.

Besides, he said that "the US has enough resources, military and manpower."

The CHR Muslim affairs official also urged the government to "review" its statements of support for the all-out war policy of the United States because such pledge "carries much implication to the horrors of legal experts" here.

He also warned against sending troops to the United States and allowing the US military to use the country's strategic points for warfare.

Diplomatic means

He said the US government was not exactly following international convention on dealing with terrorists because it did not exhaust all diplomatic means against the suspected mastermind, Osama bin Laden.

He said the US government should push first for the extradition of Bin Laden before conducting military operations against Afghanistan.

"This is one thing that we should be wary about," Marohomsalic said. "It would do well for government officials to study the complication. If we support immediately the United States, we are projecting to the world that we don't follow international practice."

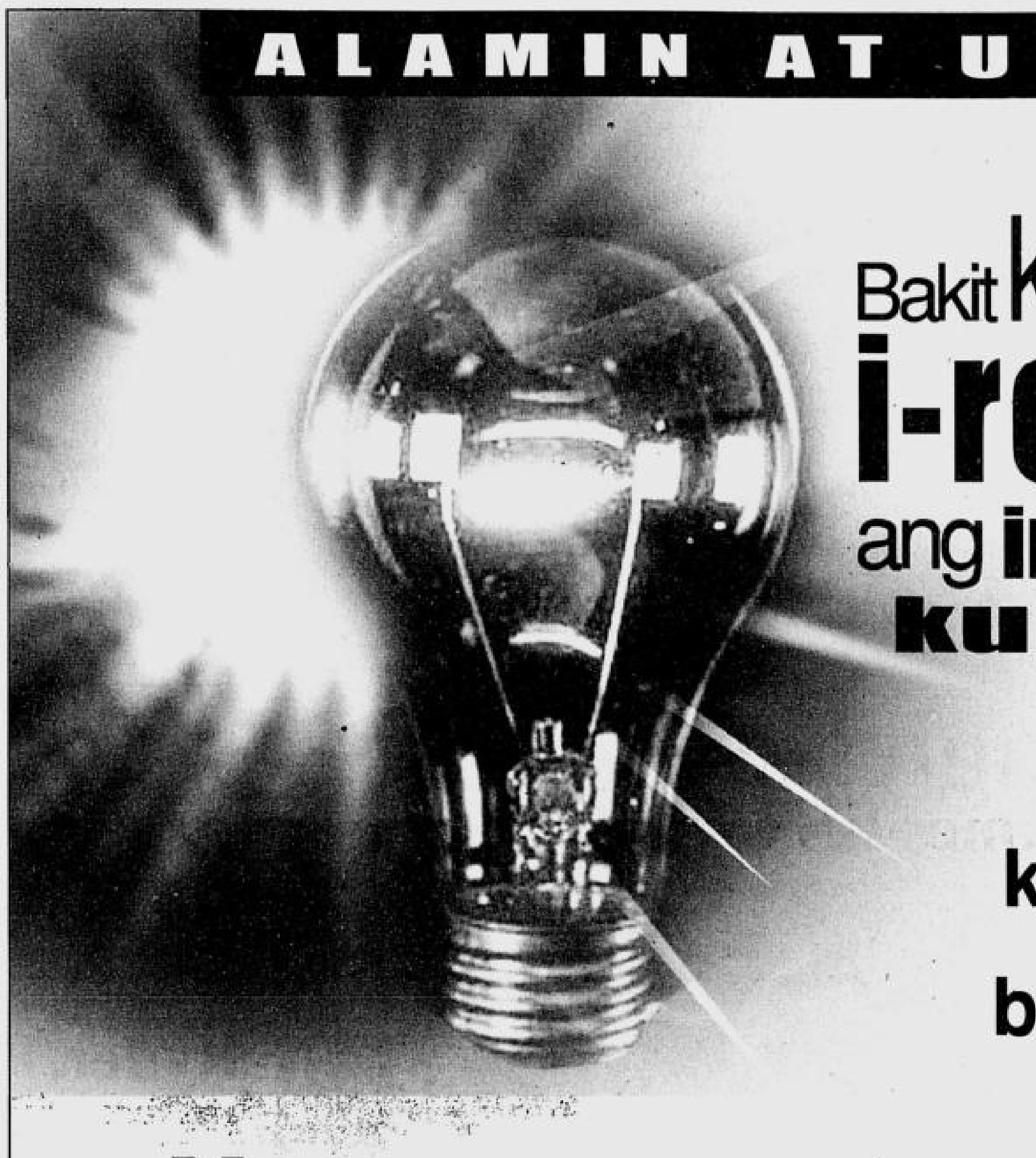
The commissioner also said support for the US government would mean that we would be compelled to allow them to "intrude" in the Philippine government's operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group, the most notorious terrorist band in the country.

Marohomsalic said the US troops would most likely conduct its own operations against the Abu Sayyaf, which is holding two American hostages, as part of its war against terrorism.

"We will just have to allow the US troops with minimum preliminary talks or arrangements to get into the country and operate against the Abu Sayyaf," Marohomsalic said.

"If we refuse to cooperate, it goes to show that we are harboring terrorists," he added.

He said the government should instead direct its military efforts to neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf instead of offering to send troops to the United States to wage war.



ALAMIN AT UNAWAIN!

Bakit kailangang i-reporma ang industriya ng kuryente?

Ano ang kuneksyon nito sa buhay mo?

MAHAL ANG KURYENTE, MAHAL DIN ANG BILIHIN

Mahal ang presyo ng kuryente dito sa atin kaya naman mahal din ang mga bilihin. Ito rin ang dahilan kung bakit hirap na makipagsabayan ang mga industriya natin sa mga taga-ibang bansa.

ANO ANG MAGAGAWA NG EIRA PARA MABAGO ANG GANITONG SITWASYON?

Ang Electric Power Industry Reform Act o EIRA ay naglalayon na baguhin ang istruktura ng power industry dito sa bansa upang magkaroon ng mas mababang presyo at mas magandang serbisyo sa industriya.

Papayagan ang kumpetisyon sa power generation at supply. Mananatiling regulated naman ang transmission at distribution sectors upang proteksyonan ang mga consumers. Sa pamamagitan ng paghahati-hati ng mga planta ng National Power Corporation (Napocor) sa mas maliliit na grupo at sa pag-aalok ng mga ito sa mga pribadong kumpanya, makakaasang mas magkakaroon ng makabuluhang kumpetisyon sa sektor ng elektrisidad.

Makakapili ka maging ng supplier ng kuryente pagdating ng panahon.

MAHALAGA ANG KUMPETISYON

Mahalaga ito dahil ito ang nagsisilbing bala sa inaasahang "price war" na mangyayari sa industriya.

Isang halimbawa ang sektor ng telekomunikasyon na ngayon ay nagpapababaan ng presyo sa mga long distance at overseas calls.

Ganito rin ang naranasan ng mga bansang nagsulong ng reporma sa kanilang mga industriyang pang-elektrisidad.

Kapag bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente, kasunod din nito ang pagbaba ng halaga ng mga pangunahing bilihin.

Noong Hunyo, nagsimula nang magbaba ng 30 sentimos kada KwH ang Napocor sa singil ng kuryente sa mga residential consumers. Ito ay patuloy na ibibigay ng Napocor bawat buwan.

NGUNIT ANG PAGBABAGO AY DI MADALIAN

Ang EIRA ay hindi pangmadalian na solusyon.

Ang pagbabago sa industriya ay nangangailangan ng mahabang proseso. Umabot ng halos pitong taon ang pagre-reporma ng industriya sa telekomunikasyon ngunit ngayon pa lamang natin nararamdaman ang mga benepisyo nito.

Bilang paghahanda, ang Department of Energy ay mangunguna sa serye ng public consultations ukol sa Draft Implementing Rules and Regulations ng EIRA. Ang mga public consultations ay gaganapin sa mga sumusunod na lugar at petsa.

Searsolin, Cagayan De Oro City \ Iligan	Sept. 20 - 21
Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Zamboanga City	Sept. 26 - 27
Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City	Oct. 4 - 5
University of the Philippines, Tacloban City-	Oct. 4 - 5
St. Louis University, Baguio City (tentative) -	Oct. 8 - 9
Ateneo de Naga University, Naga City	Oct. 8 - 9
University of San Carlos, Cebu City	Oct. 15 -16
Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City (tentative) -	Oct. 15 -16

Makakatulong ka dito.

Ang Electric Power Industry Reform Act ay mahalaga sa buhay at kinabukasan natin. Ating alamin at unawain.

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'It is time to face the music in Tokyo'

Peñalosa leaves today to fulfill his date with history

GERRY (left) in deep training under the watchful eyes of brother Dodie Boy. JESS YUSON

THE MISSION: Reclaim the crown. That officially begins today when Gerry Peñalosa flies to Tokyo on board Philippine Airlines in the company of lawyer Rudy Salud, his manager of three years.

They will travel business class as "great fighters like Gerry need to be always treated with class."

The PAL jet will take off at 2:25 p.m. Expected time of arrival at the Narita Airport is 6 p.m. today, Manila time. (Japan is ahead of the Philippines by one hour).

Peñalosa will challenge Japan's World Boxing Council superflyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama in the Japanese capital on Monday, Sept. 24, in a fight scheduled for 12 rounds.

THE PRIMER of the Peñalosa-Tokuyama fight will be aired tomorrow night starting at 10 over IBC 13. To be shown are Peñalosa's training and preparation for the fight, plus a classic Tokuyama-In Jo Cho bout held last May in Seoul.

"It's time to face the music in Tokyo," said Salud. "I've done everything under my power to rechart the boxing career of Gerry. I know he knows how high the stakes are. I know he knows what he will have to do, need to do, the minute we set foot in Tokyo."

It's been 21 months since Salud started rebuilding Peñalosa from a fighter thrown to a faulty diet not fit for a boxer to a man fed with the right nutrients to reconquer the world through his fists.

SALUD

"Whatever happens in Tokyo, it's Gerry's call," said Salud. "Deep in my heart, I know he will win. I don't know what to say next if we lose."

In his first attempt to recapture the World Boxing Council superflyweight crown, Peñalosa dropped a points decision to Korean In Jo Cho in January 2000. Cho was the same man who dethroned Peñalosa in 1998, also on points. Both fights were held in Seoul.

After the 2000 New Year debacle in Seoul, Salud made Peñalosa, upon the recommendation of Dr. Sanirose Orbeta, eat more carbohydrates than red meat and drink at least a dozen glasses of water everyday—a complete reversal of the boxer's diet for years of less rice and less water.

Before that, Salud sent Peñalosa to the training camp of the venerable Roy Jones in the United States to learn new tricks from the American world light-heavyweight champion who is generally known as the world's best pound-for-pound in his class today. In that trip, Peñalosa kayoed a Mexican in a Jones undercard.

In no time, Peñalosa's radical transformation would reap the dividends.

In a span of 16 months, while indulging on his new diet, Peñalosa knocked out all his three opponents—two from Thailand. The last one, the former world champion Keiji Yamaguchi of Japan, fell in the first round only last May.

Peñalosa, 29, is 40-2-1, with 27 knockouts. Those "2" were the losses to In Jo Cho.

Tokuyama, 26, is not a known kayo artist. He is 24-2-1, with 6 knockouts. Interestingly, his two defeats were inflicted by Filipinos Manny Melchor on points and Nolito "Suzuki" Cabato via a 7th-round TKO.

But like Peñalosa, Tokuyama has also fought Cho twice. The difference though was, Tokuyama won both fights.

The first one was on Aug. 27, 2000, when Tokuyama decisioned a newly married Cho to capture the 115-pound crown in Tokyo. In that fight, Salud and Gerry were at ringside.

In their rematch in Seoul on May 20, 2001, Tokuyama knocked out Cho in the fifth round with a right straight to the face.

Before that, Tokuyama kept his crown by decisioning countryman Akihiko Nago on Dec. 12, 2000, in Tokyo, but not after absorbing a sixth-round knockdown from a Nago left hook.

In his third defense, the 5-foot-7, Japan-born North Korean Tokuyama is facing a natural lefty in Peñalosa, a 5-foot-4 human dynamite who now packs power from both his fists.

During the two unsuccessful times that Peñalosa fought Cho, the Korean kept running. Surprisingly, Cho chose to mix it up with Tokuyama in his two losing bids for the world crown.

"Not to brag but Gerry is at his best when his foe elects to slug it out," said Salud. "The five tapes of Tokuyama's fights which I gave to Gerry for his perusal should augur well for him in this mission which he himself had dubbed as his last hurrah."

The fight will be televised on Monday night over IBC 13. *Al S. Mendoza*

Operation GMA (Open letter to Mike Arroyo)

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Dear Mike,

I write this in haste. I hope it doesn't make waste.

Let me go direct to the point.

A friend of mine approached me only a while back armed with this proposition: Why not draft a program aimed at producing the first Olympic gold medal for the Philippines?

A tough one, I must say.

It's really tough winning a gold medal in the Olympics. The best of the best aren't only there. Even the geniuses are there, too.

But I love challenges. Before I gave him my yes, I thought of my favorite dictum: The causes worth fighting for are the lost causes.

And so, after a handshake with my friend signifying my affirmation to his proposition, here I am writing this letter to you. I must admit I am not close to you but what the heck. Closeness can be developed, especially at a time when we need to embark on a mission for the common good of all. Any move for flag and country will almost always lift the spirits of the people.

My friend says he knows you. For starters, this friend is a genuine sports patron. I've seen him dig deep into his pockets in the name of sports.

"Please help me conceptualize this project," he says to me. "Many people have come to me about this. Even before they mentioned you as a willing ally to this mission, I had you in mind already."

Who was it who said, "Flattery won't get you nowhere"?

But flattery or not, I believed him. About time we got together to focus on the next Olympics in Athens, the mystical capital of Greece, in 2004.

And, for starters, I told my friend to look for a catchy name for the mission.

I have a name for it already: Operation GMA.

Why Operation GMA?

The GMA in Operation GMA means Gold Medal in Athens.

He was speechless, his mouth agape. When he finally spoke, he said, "Brilliant."

We then agreed wholeheartedly that the project was on.

As I said, this friend of mine says he knows you. And more.

"We will have Mike Arroyo in this project," he says. "He will head this project."

And so, this letter.

I did this because of what I saw in Kuala Lumpur during the recent Southeast Asian Games. Seeing you showing your concern for the athletes sort of moved my heart. You came, you left. You came again. And you saw how our athletes conquered some of the region's best. You cheered them on. Lustily. I found myself asking, "Is this man for real?"

We shook hands for the first time at the clubhouse of Kuala Lumpur's Sungai Long Golf & Country Club in the presence of golf officials Rod Feliciano and Alice Andrada. Butch Tuason introduced me to you and you readily extended your hand.

But I sensed that you were not in the mood to talk shop. Fine. A few seconds after the handshake, I left. Without saying goodbye. I saw you were focused on the games of our male and female bets then playing that day.

When we meet again, I promise to stay longer. Talking about the merits of Operation GMA shouldn't be taken for granted. I'll stay a little longer. Your wish will be my command.

In the meantime, let me say again that I did this in haste as I'm flying to Tokyo today to cover the Peñalosa-Tokuyama world title fight in the Japanese capital on Monday.

Now, I have an idea. Why not join us at ringside? C'mon, do it. In a sense, that will prove your consistency in being pro-sports. I'm sure Gerry Peñalosa will treat your gesture an added inspiration to his noble quest for the world superflyweight crown. Rudy Salud, Gerry's manager, will surely welcome your presence with open arms. Plus, your coming will also afford me the chance to brief you on the basic mechanics of Operation GMA. Over a glass of sake, Mike?

Till here. Catch you later. *Arigato.*

NCAA semis begin

GAMES TODAY
(Final Four/Rizal Coliseum)
11:30p.m.—SSC vs San Beda (jrs)
1:30p.m.—SSC vs Mapua Tech (srs)
3:30p.m.—Letran vs Mapua Tech (jrs)
5:30p.m.—JRU vs CSB (srs)

By June Navarro

NOSTALGIA will be written all over the College of St. Benilde Blazers' faces as they embark on a Final Four mission today in NCAA men's basketball.

Faced with the same predicament last year after clinching the fourth semifinal seat, the defending champions will again have to contend with an enemy protected by a twice-to-beat incentive.

The Blazers, who finished with a 7-7 record, should beat top semifinalist Jose Rizal University (11-3) twice starting today to accomplish their title-retention intentions.

Gametime is 5:30 p.m. or a few hours after San Sebastian College and Mapua Tech collide on a similar endeavor with the Stags enjoying the twice-to-beat perk.

MSU, UP climbers sparkle

MINDANAO State University and University of the Philippines-Diliman lorded it over the field as they ruled the men's and women's divisions, respectively, in the seventh San Mig Light National Inter-Collegiate Sport Climbing Championships before a big crowd at the Glorietta Activity Center over the weekend.

The MSU climbers composed of Omar Montoya, Enrico Galang and Josef Panerio dominated the men's side from the elims up to the finals, scoring 300 points in the qualifiers, 255 points in the semis and finishing with 245 points in the final round.

They beat the troika of Miel Pahati, Dadsie Coscoluella and Affie Yap of University of Asia and the Pacific, which finished with 130 points, while the Xavier University team of Bernie Martin, Lester Lim and Alejandro Hona had 109 points for third.

A total of 21 schools competed in the men's division and 22 in the women's side (Difficulty Climbing) with the top eight advancing to the semis and the next top five squads clashing in the final round of the tournament organized by IMG (International Management Group).

Blue Eagles eye finals vs Tams today

By Lorenzo Manguiat

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
12 nn – DLSU vs UST (Jrs; playoff for No. 2 slot)
2:30 p.m. – UE vs NU (Srs, playoff for No. 4 slot)
5 p.m. – Ateneo vs FEU (Srs; Start of Final Four)

WILL it be déjà vu or a different ending this time around?

The Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the East certainly hope that it is the latter as they face separate opponents in the 64th season of the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum today.

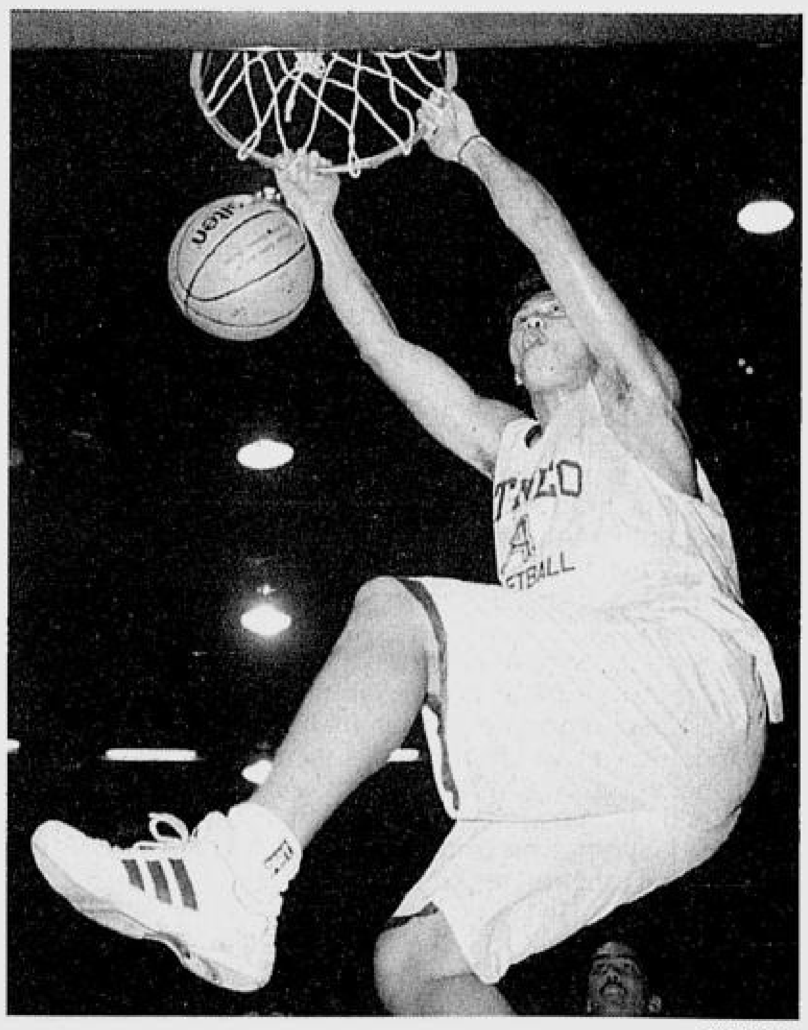
Ateneo, which finished second after the two-round eliminations this season, just like it did last year, will again face Far Eastern University at the start of the Final Four today at 5 p.m.

The Blue Eagles, by virtue of their 10-4 record, secured a twice-to-beat advantage over the Tamaraws, who finished the regular season in third place at 8-6.

However, fresh in the minds of the Eagles is last season's monumental collapse, wherein they squandered their advantage and allowed the Tamaraws to win back-to-back contests to enter the championship round.

A win by the Eagles will book them a seat in the Finals for the first time since 1988, the last time the Katipunan-based squad won the title. A loss will forge a winner-take-all encounter on Sunday.

Both games will be aired live over Studio 23.



VILLANUEVA: Leading MVP candidate FILE PHOTO

Kuwait dribblers due Sept. 27

THE KUWAITI National Team is set to arrive Sept. 27, four days after the kickoff of the biggest 1st Philippine Basketball League Open Invitational slated Sept. 23-Oct. 3 at the Makati Coliseum.

This was confirmed yesterday by Kuwaiti national coach, American Draff Young, in his letter to PBL chief operations officer Perry Martinez who, in return, made corresponding adjustments in the schedule to provide international flavor to this 11-day tournament.

"The presence of the Kuwaiti national team will not only be a big learning experience for the commercial teams but also for the regular PBL squads. Coach Draff Young did a big improvement for the Kuwaiti nationals and I believe Philippine basketball could pick up some more new coaching techniques from coach Young," said Perry Martinez.

Kuwait actually made a big leap from being the favorite whipping boys in Asian basketball. In fact, the Kuwaitis made it to the quarterfinals of the tough Asian Basketball Confederation men's championships in Shanghai in July.

But Young has not yet confirmed if stalwarts Osama Mubarak and Haitham Barun will be playing for the team.

Dumaguete booters top Under-19

THE DUMAGUETE football team representing Negros Oriental edged NCR 2-1 to win the National Under-19 championship at the Siliman ballfield, Dumaguete City recently.

Both NCR and Dumaguete-Negros Oriental came into the finals undefeated without even conceding a single goal during the eliminations and the semifinals. With a huge crowd cheering the host team on, Negros Oriental got an early lead via a five-yarder from Wouter Delbaere in the 10th minute coming from an assist by Ha Chang-Jo.

Emmanuel Gimarino of NCR silenced the home fans when he scored the equalizer in the 35th minute.

In the 63rd minute, just when the crowd was getting uneasy, Wouter Delbaere scored again for a 2-1 lead for the home team. That goal proved to be the winning goal for the tournament.

Delbaere, a Belgian who has resided here with his family since he was in the elementary years, was the top striker when Dumaguete won the National Under-16 Championship last year. But playing hurt with a fractured left toe in the early matches, he was not very effective. However, when it counted the most, in the most crucial game Delbaere delivered again for Dumaguete.

Cebu City hosting Little Olympics

AFTER a successful leg in Cagayan de Oro, the 13th Milo Little Olympics gears up for another round of action in Cebu City starting Sept. 22.

Elementary and high school students in the region will participate in 10 interschool sports competitions, including badminton, gymnastics, lawn tennis, chess, table, tennis, taekwondo, ahtletics, swimming, football and volleyball.

The Milo Little Olympics was first launched in Metro Manila in 1988 in line with Milo's identity as the "Olympic Energy Drink." The program is consistent with the long-term commitment of Milo to promote sports and youth development.

Today, the Milo Little Olympics program provides a venue for sports development among students. It continues to discover and develop young athletes for future national and international sports competitions.

Ryder, Presidents Cups to switch years

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—Top US golfers began complaining two years ago that they had to play a Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup every year, while players from Europe and the rest of the world only had to compete in the matches every other year.

That hasn't gone unnoticed by the PGA of America as it tries to determine the future of the Ryder Cup.

The matches, originally scheduled for Sept. 28-30 at The Belfry in England, were postponed until next September because of the terrorist attacks. The precise dates are expected to be announced Wednesday, European organizers said Tuesday.

The new September dates mean the matches would be played about six weeks before the Presidents Cup in South Africa.

Jim Awtrey, chief executive officer of the PGA of America, spent part of his daylong meetings Monday talking to PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem about moving the Presidents Cup back one year - and possibly leaving it in odd-numbered years.

"That's an important piece, because players can't do everything at once," Awtrey said. "We believe that will happen."

Asked if moving the Ryder Cup to even-numbered years would be ideal, Awtrey replied, "It's the cleanest thing we can possibly do now."

"To combine three events in a 14-month period, I don't know if that's fair to the players or if all the events can sustain the intensity they desire," he said.

Sponsor quits

PARIS—Cosmetics manufacturer Lancome International is withdrawing from this year's edition of the golf tournament that bears its name because of last week's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. In a statement released Tuesday, the company said it was "exceptionally" pulling out of the Lancome Trophy at Saint-Nom-la-Breteche outside Paris. AP

2nd XP golf tourney fires off tomorrow

THE XP Club, an exclusive group established by select Ford Expedition vehicle owners in the country, will hold 2nd XP Golf Classic tomorrow (Sept. 21) at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Close to 70 members and guests will vie for top honors using the System 36 scoring format in the 18-hole golf tournament sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Prudential Life.

Jimmy Bautista, board member and head of the XP golf committee, said the tournament fee is priced at P2000 (for members) and P2,500 (non-members), inclusive of green fee, lunch, souvenir items and a chance at the raffle.

"We are inviting Ford Expedition owners to join XP club and all our activities such as this golf tournament. They can contact TJ at tel. No. 8185555 or 09178972582 for more details," Bautista said.

Former Metropolitan Basketball Association Commissioner Ramon Fernandez, actor Patrick Guzman and Department of Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida head the cast who will shot the ceremonial ball at 7:45 a.m. The shotgun tee-off starts at 8 a.m.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Southern Skies 2. Ocean Friend/Stock Rising 3. Queen Scholar/Waving Oscar 4. Raise D Sun 5. Prince Armstrong

Race 2—1. Turbo Carera 2. Full Blast 3. Irish Diplomat 4. Pilgrim

Race 3—1. Prince of Africa 2. Best of Ocean 3. Clear Sky 4. Rapid Strike

Race 4—1. High Typhoon 2. Grupo Grupo 3. King Cobra 4. Oh Diva 5. Septembermorn

Race 5—1. Diligence 2. Samahan 3. Standout 4. Strong Bird 5. Champs Elysees

Race 6—1. Wine and Roses 2. Dynasty 3. Miss Sleween 4. Always 5. Truthful Lady

Race 7—1. Materiales Fuertes 2. Family Task 3. Project Genesis 4. Morena 5. High Roller 6. Power Drive

Race 8—1. I Swear 2. Aurora Borealis 3. Bold Freddy 4. High Pitch 5. Full Show

Race 9—1. Hammerhead 2. Thunder Fire 3. Ahead of Time 4. Supreme Prospect 5. Battle Tested

1,500 jins tangle

AROUND 1,500 taekwondo-jins from all over the country are expected to vie for honors in the 2001 Milo National Inter-School Championships on Saturday and Sunday (Sept. 22-23) at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, competition will be conducted in six events, namely, senior men and women, junior men and women and gradeschool boys and girls.

Among the participating schools are DLSU UP, Ateneo, UST, FEU, San Beda College, Don Bosco Makati, Don Bosco Mandaluyong, International School of Manila, Assumption College, ICA, Colegio San Agustin, Siena, St. Theresa's College, LSQC, OMBC Greenhills, La Salle Greenhills, St. Scholastica's College, St. Anthony, St. Mary's School;

San Pedro College of Business Administration, University of Batangas, St. Bridget, St. Louis University (Baguio), Bloomfield Academy, PMA, PMMA, Siena Taytay, Sumulong Elementary School, Manuel Enverga University Foundation, O.B. Montessori (Pampanga) J.F. Kuzma School (Pampanga) Angeles University Foundation.

Manila versus Pampanga

AN interesting showdown of Metro Manila's big-time cockers against Pampanga's derby champions will be held on Sept. 29 at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City, with the staging of "Sagupaan 5-Stag Invitational derby."

Sabong idol Patrick Antonio, derby host, will award a huge 'Sagupaan' trophy to the champion, who also stands to receive a guaranteed prize of P500,000.

Invited from Metro Manila are Jessie Viceo, Sonny Lagon, Raymond Velayo, Benjie Lim, Tony Lasala, Vic Yu, Butch Macasaet, Blandy Tolentino, Pol Estrellado, Biboy Enriquez, Ram Lopez, Bobby Wong and Vic Amante.

To challenge them are Pampanga's cockfight heavy weights like Jun Jingco, Madlambayan brothers, Jimmy Mariquit, Roland Guevarra, Mayor Tarzan Lazatin, Eric Lu, Jet Fernando, B. Pineda, Tony Lim and Jun Yap.

Farm-to-farm screening will be held on Sept. 22 and 23. Stags eight to nine months old will be accepted.

Stags wingbanded by NGBA, GF-Ban, NCA, Ucap, Pagba and Migba are qualified but will be legbanded on the day of the derby, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, for re-classification. Allowed weights are form 1.7kg to 2.2 kg.

Jimmy Liao, 83

JIMMY Liao, father of Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Henry Liao, passed away last Sept. 19. He was 83. His body lies at Arlington Chapel along Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

Final overall medal tally • 21st Southeast Asian Games

	BRUNEI			CAMBODIA			INDONESIA			LAOS			MALAYSIA			MYANMAR			PHILIPPINES			SINGAPORE			THAILAND			VIETNAM		
SPORTS	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
Aquatics	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	8	0	0	0	19	8	11	1	2	0	0	7	6	9	9	6	12	11	11	0	2	1
Archery	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Athletics	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	6	0	0	0	8	5	9	1	3	5	8	11	4	1	2	1	22	8	11	3	4	10
Badminton	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	0	0	0	2	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	1
Basketball	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Billiards	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	3	6	1	0	0	3	5	0	1	0	0	1
Bowling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	4	5	0	0	0	4	6	1	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
Boxing	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	1	3	2	4	3	0	0	6	0	2	5	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0
Cycling	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6	6	0	0	0	3	8	4	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	3	2	5	3	1	1
Equestrian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0
Fencing	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	0	3	2	0	5	0	0	0
Football	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Golf	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
Gymnastics	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	6	0	0	0	16	8	3	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	2	6	4	0	1	2
Hockey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Judo	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	5	1	3	5	0	1	0	7	6	1	0	1	8
Karate-Do	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	6	8	0	0	0	9	3	6	0	1	7	2	1	5	0	0	1	0	3	2	4	5	6
LawnBowls	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
Netball	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PencakSilat	0	1	2	0	0	0	9	6	5	0	0	0	5	1	4	0	0	5	0	4	4	1	2	1	0	2	9	6	5	7
Petanque	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	2
Rowing	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0
Sailing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	5	3	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	6	5	2	3	4	0	0	0
SepakTakraw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0
Shooting	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	6	8	7	3	1	5	1	5	5	3	2	3	13	12	6	6	5	8
Squash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
TableTennis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	3	1	3	2	1	0	3
Taekwondo	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	5	0	0	1	3	2	4	1	1	2	3	5	5	0	0	1	3	3	6	4	1	6
Tennis	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	6	0	0	0
Volleyball	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Weightlifting	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	2	0	2	4
Wushu	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	3	0	0	1	6	2	5	3	2	4	4	2	4	1	2	1	1	0	1	5	6	4

KUALA LUMPUR 2001

'Twas better but not good enough–Dayrit

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

DAYRIT

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit yesterday said he was disappointed by the RP contingent's performance in the recent Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games despite the country's jump in the gold medal haul from 20 to 30 two years ago in Brunei.

The Philippines played fewer disciplines in Brunei than in Kuala Lumpur, where the country was entered in 30 of 32 events played.

While commending the national athletes for what he said was their effort to give their best in the biennial tournament, Dayrit said the RP delegation failed to deliver the promised 40 golds.

"Unfortunately, our athletes' sacrifices got overshadowed because we got fewer gold medals," said Dayrit. "The medal tally didn't show the heroics of our national athletes in the SEA Games arena."

He rued the losses that cost gold medals for the country.

"It was better but not good enough," said Dayrit of the country's showing in the SEAG where it amassed 30 gold, 66 silver and 67 bronze medals. "We won more silvers and lost golds in many close calls but people give more importance to gold than silver."

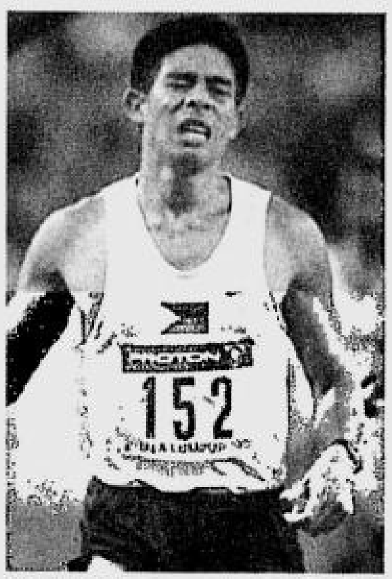
Still, the POC chief noted that the Philippines managed to break the tailspin the country has been experiencing through the years. From 91 golds in Manila in 1991, RP slumped to 57 golds in 1993 in Singapore, 33 in 1993 in Chiang Mai and 43 in 1997 in Jakarta.

Dayrit said he will ask sports associations to strive harder and come up with more efficient sports development programs during the POC general assembly next week.

He said he will convene the POC executive council today to chart Philippine sports' next moves starting with the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, all the way to the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games.

Noting that the prospects don't look bright in the light of Vietnam's resurgence, Dayrit said the big guns like Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia are not showing signs of slowing down.

"These countries also have big economies and sports is now a highly financial endeavor to them," said Dayrit. "At least now, we know what kind of opponents we are going to have in the immediate future. We've got to do something about it."



LOZADA

Gold medalists complain of leaks in their quarters

AFTER bringing glory to the country in the recent Southeast Asian Games, SEAG gold medalists John Lozada and Ernie Candelario yesterday made just one humble request: Please fix the leaks in our quarters.

They said most quarters in the North and South towers of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex need repair.

But what they are really very concerned about, the duo said, was the water dripping to their beds and personal belongings every time the rains come.

Lozada and Candelario, the country's newest athletics heroes after winning the 800m and 400m events, respectively, said they had to use pails and makeshift gutters to drain the rains from their quarters.

"Please take photo, Sir," Lozada told the INQUIRER, referring to their quarters at the North Tower of the RMSC. "Every time it rains outside it also rains inside our quarters."

The duo asked the Philippine Sports Commission to do something about it because they said they could not sleep soundly during rainy nights, wary of the damage dripping water could cause to their belongings.

"We are not asking for the moon just because we won gold medals in the SEA Games," said Lozada in Tagalog. "We are just respectfully asking the authorities to do something about the problem in our quarters."

PSC chair Butch Tuason was in a meeting when the INQUIRER tried to get his side. His aide said that the athletes' complaint will be immediately relayed to the athletes' quarters manager.

The topic about the leaking roof came out after Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok met with them to discuss their meeting with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo tomorrow.

Go instructed his athletes to tell Arroyo of their immediate needs for training but the athletes instead brought up the miserable condition of their quarters.

The athletics chief refused to comment on the athletes' complaint. He said his athletes do not usually fuss about small things.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Mandaluyong derby today

IT'S anybody's race for the title of Mandaluyong Coliseum's "2nd Ucap/PE San Pablo PBRJ 7-Stag Derby" as qualifiers clash in the championship round beginning at 7 tonight. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Three entries have perfect 3-0 (win-loss) slates after Tuesday night's eliminations. These are Seven Lakes PE (Blandy Tolentino), Ucap BL 7-Stag Sept. 25 (Benjie Lim) and GF-BAN Bacolod Group (Otik Geroso).

With two victories each are Arnis Master, Altuz Oct. 16 and 18, AK 225, San Pedro GP, Oct. 9 and 11 Mandaluyong, Bumble Bee Balbina, Hammer Sagupaan, King Boxer, Mactan 3.3 M, Blue Blade JBB, CPB PBRJ and Geran (2.5 points).

Meanwhile, the tandem of Benjie Lima and Tony Lasala will host the "3rd UCAP/Red Flab 7-Stag Derby" on Sept. 25 and 27. This event is the third of seven Ucap stagfests that serve as bases in selecting the Ucap stagfighter of year 2001.

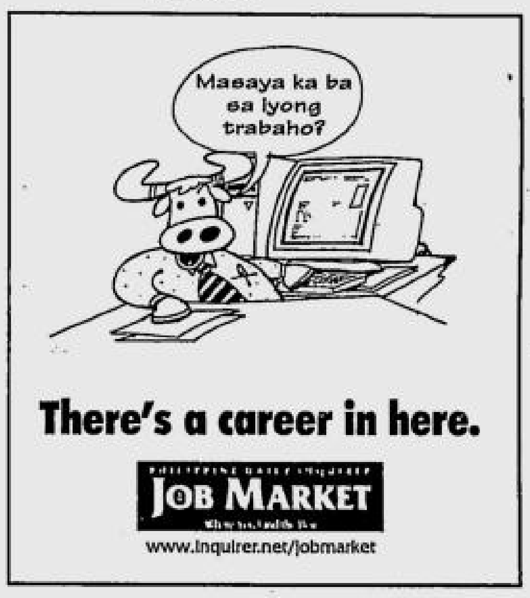
For inquiries, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BADMINTON: JVC Asian Badminton Championships at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

VOLLEYBALL: FIVB World Championship of Beach Volleyball, Men's Semifinals #1 at 9 a.m., Semifinals #2 at 11 a.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on ESPN



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Dennis Rodman charged

NEWPORT BEACH, California—Former NBA star Dennis Rodman was charged Monday with three misdemeanors for speeding through Newport Harbor in his 47-foot (14-meter) boat. Rodman was cited Aug. 3 for speeding in his pleasure boat, Sexual Chocolate, after the Orange County Sheriff's Department said its Harbor Patrol clocked him doing more than 20 mph (32 kph) in a 5 mph (8 kph) zone. Rodman was cited and released after he docked the boat at Josh Slocum's, a restaurant he co-owns. *AP*

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

Wyoming stude implicated

LARAMIE, Wyoming—The lone survivor of a wreck that killed eight Wyoming runners was charged Tuesday with vehicular homicide and being drunk at the time of the crash. Clinton Haskins, a member of the university's rodeo team, was charged with eight counts of aggravated homicide by vehicle. The complaint also charged Haskins was driving while drunk but provided no specifics. Haskins faces up to 20 years in prison on each count if convicted. Bond was set at $100,000. *AP*

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GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
5:05 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska
7:10 pm.—Purefoods vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

ROSELLE Ellis got a much-needed shot in the arm from Swift's local crew as the Panthers nipped Batang Red Bull, 83-80, last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Poch Juinio provided the most crucial lift after draining a fadeaway jumper in the last 18.6 seconds that clinched the Panthers' first victory in three starts.

Junio's brilliance preserved the heads-up performance of Johnny Abbarientos and Nelson Asaytono in the payoff period to backstop Ellis on the offensive end at the height of the Thunders' comeback.

The Thunder, who absorbed their second straight setback, battled back from 16 points down in the second quarter, 46-30, that suddenly put the sleepy crowd on its feet at the Big Dome.

Ray Tutt's drive midway in the final period gave the Thunder a taste of the lead, 63-62, but was easily countered as Asaytono and Abarrientos backstopped Ellis during the Panthers' breakaway.

Swift coach Chot Reyes, however, attributed the Panthers' success on the quality minutes provided by Jojo Lastimosa in the first quarter.

Sta. Lucia averted a final quarter collapse to prevail over a depleted Tanduay side, 92-78, in the second game.

In achieving their third straight victory, the Realtors grabbed the solo lead while handing the Rhummasters their second setback in three games.

Scores:

SWIFT 83—Ellis 29, Abarrientos 15, Asaytono 11, Hatfield 9, Juinio 8, Antonio 5, Bolado 4, Lastimosa 2, Ballesteros 0.

RED BULL 80—Tutt 29, Harp 16, Valenzuela 14, Torion 6, Pennisi 6, Mendoza 5, Agustin 2, Raymundo 2, Miller 0, Tugade 0.

QUARTERS: 25-18, 48-35, 62-59, 83-80

10 finalists bared

THE PBA Press Corps yesterday announced the 10 finalists in the PBAPC sportswriting contest held recently at Philsports. They are UST's Dexter Mantilla, Darrell Dizon and Christian Bautista; La Salle's Mauro Anthony Cabading III, Jose Paolo Lacdao and Hansel David, Lyceum's Elmer Manuel and Jeremy Malipot, PLM's Noli Cruz and St. Benilde's Khalil Manubay.

Negros, Laguna beat MBA rivals

Games Tomorrow (Tinga Gym)
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Negros
5:30 p.m.—San Juan vs Socsargen

By Roy Luarca

NEGROS thwarted Andok's San Juan's fiery rally in the fourth quarter to prevail, 111-103, last night in the resumption of the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

National Player Ruben de la Rosa poured 11 points in that crucial span as the Slashers exacted revenge over the Knights, who beat them for the First Phase crown.

De la Rosa, showing no effects of jet lag, wound up with 21 points to earn best player of the game honors.

The Slashers led by as many as 24 points and were well ahead, 85-65, before the Knights greeted the fourth quarter with 13-point cluster, highlighted by Chris Calaguio's back-to-back triples.

The Knights even moved to within 89-95 on a triple by Philip Newton, but DL Rosa was able to bail the Slashers out-of-trouble with a freethrow and a Blitz 3.

Earlier FedEx Laguna outran and outgunned Socsargen en route to a 115-89 victory.

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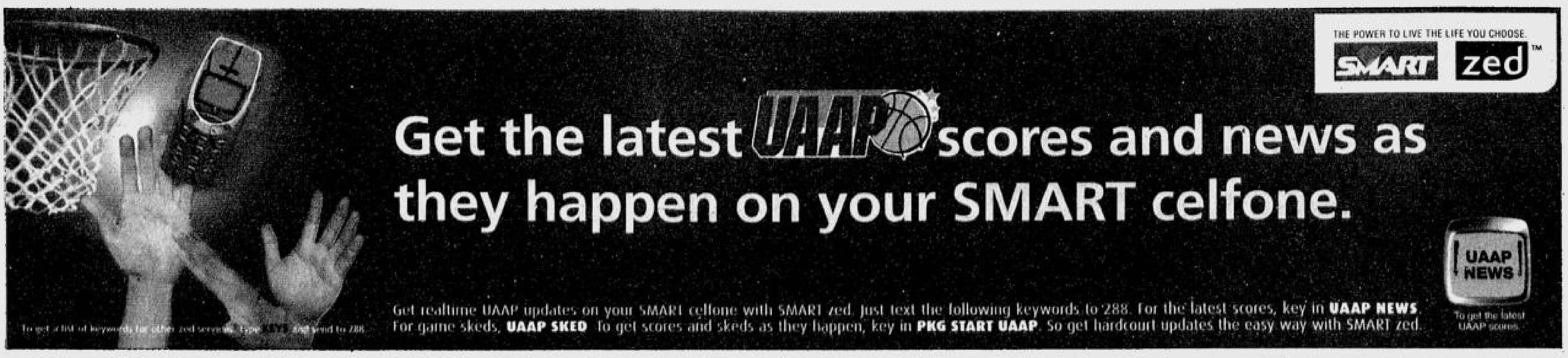
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Stop using Mehan, Atienza asked

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday asked Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to stop politicking by using the Mehan Garden as an excuse to desecrate an anthropological and archeological site. "The city mayor would do better politics if he protects historical sites," he said. Alvarez reminded Atienza that leaders of government have specific functions and duties to do. *Cynthia Balana*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Armed Muslims storm police headquarters

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

AROUND 100 Muslims, including two alleged mayors from Mindanao, stormed the Northern Police District headquarters in Caloocan Monday night to "rescue" a fellow Muslim who was indiscriminately arrested by police.

Tension gripped the headquarters when angry Muslims, said to be armed, demanded the release of businessman Omra Macmac, 33, said an NPD official who refused to be identified.

NPD lawmen under Insp. Allanjing Medina arrested Macmac for alleged drug trafficking at his house on Gardena Street, Garden Villa, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City about 8 p.m. Monday, a police report showed.

Supt. Vidal Querol, NPD chief, yesterday insisted that the arrest was part of an anti-drug trafficking campaign and not a crackdown on suspected terrorists.

The arrest came hours before the Caloocan City government announced it would monitor the activities of foreigners, especially those of Arab descent, in the wake of terrorist attacks in the United States.

"(Muslims) should not be alarmed," Querol said. "There's no crackdown. They should go on with their lives."

ARMED/A18

Muslim community statement

WE highly empathize with the innocent civilians and their bereaved families that were affected by the attacks on America.

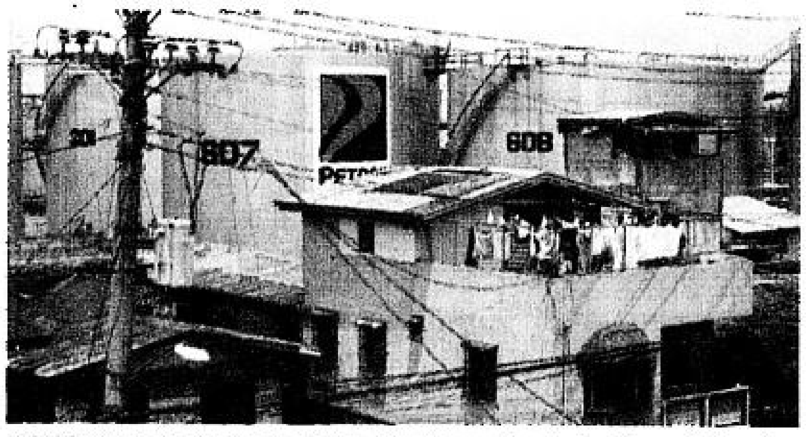
Islam is a religion of peace. It abhors violence and the killings of innocents and the helpless. Thus it is contradictory to associate those perpetrators responsible for the WTC and Pentagon attacks to the followers of Islam. Furthermore, we condemn the killings of these innocent people that go against basic Islamic principles.

If indeed the terrorists turn out to be "Muslims", please be open-minded enough to know that the actions of a few people are not the acts and sentiments of the whole Muslim world. It is a sad reality that even in a democratic society like ours that espouses freedom of conscience and belief, religious discrimination still exists.

We condemn the indiscriminate arrests of Muslims, specifically the Arabs in the Philippines, because it violates the constitutional right to due process as what is happening now.

We strongly oppose the US government's retaliatory stance that may result in the killing of innocent civilians.

Wassalam!



DANGER lurks in these giant oil storage tanks in the middle of a thickly populated area in Pandacan, Manila. RANDY HOMILLOSA

Oil firms violate fire safety rules

BY JEROME ANING

AT LEAST two of the country's three big oil firms operating the Pandacan fuel depot complex have been found to be violating several fire safety regulations, Manila city councilors bared during a public hearing for the depot's proposed phaseout yesterday.

Supt. Pablito Cordeta, marshal of the Bureau of Fire Protection-National Capital Region District 1, told shocked councilors that, since 1985, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. have failed to acquire storage permits for the flammable materials in their tanks.

Cordeta said Shell applied for a storage permit only in July but the application is still in process, according to an Aug. 22, 2001 report by a four-man team from the district fire department.

Additionally, Shell does not have a storage permit for its liquefied petroleum gas system stored in the spherical tanks called "unfired pressure vessels." The company also failed to submit plans and certificate of hydrostatic test.

There was also no automatic fire suppression system and smoke/heat detector in Shell's LPG filing plant, Cordeta said.

Petron Corp. did not have a fire safety inspection certificate. The company was asked to present its fire brigade organizational chart, evacuation layout and fire drill.

Because of time constraint, representatives of the three oil firms—Rey Gamboa of Shell; Peter Paul Shotwell, Carlos Tan and Joel Cruz of Petron; Marian Catedral and Rod Libunao of Caltex—were not able to comment on Cordeta's report.

All these companies have the mayor's permits and business licenses to operate their facilities.

They also assured councilors that they have adequate safety and security measures and modern fire-fighting equipment to fight fires not only inside the depot but in nearby areas.

The aldermen met as a committee to discuss an ordinance by Councilor Joy Dawis-Asuncion which sought to reclassify the land occupied by the depots from industrial to commercial.

The ordinance followed a resolution passed early this week by the council which called for the phaseout of the depot within six months to two years.

Time to throw away fake IDs

FAKE press IDs allegedly sold for as much as P2,000 are among the bogus identification cards, badges and markings of government agencies that are being flashed by motorists attempting to elude arrest or being issued traffic citation tickets, according to the Philippine National Police.

The PNP reported that more than 100 motorists apprehended for traffic violations showed authorities press cards, government IDs, badges and markings, which turned out to be bogus upon verification.

Most of these violators were drivers of colorum FX taxis, said Supt. Luisito Maralit, Metro Manila chief police traffic enforcer.

Maralit said the apprehended drivers used fake identification so they would be exempted from the MMDA's traffic reduction scheme.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. warned that motorists found using fake IDs would be arrested and prosecuted.

He said the unlawful use of government IDs, badges and markings is tantamount to usurpation, an act punishable under the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines.

Persons found using fake identification documents also face a P1,000 fine. *Nelson Flores*

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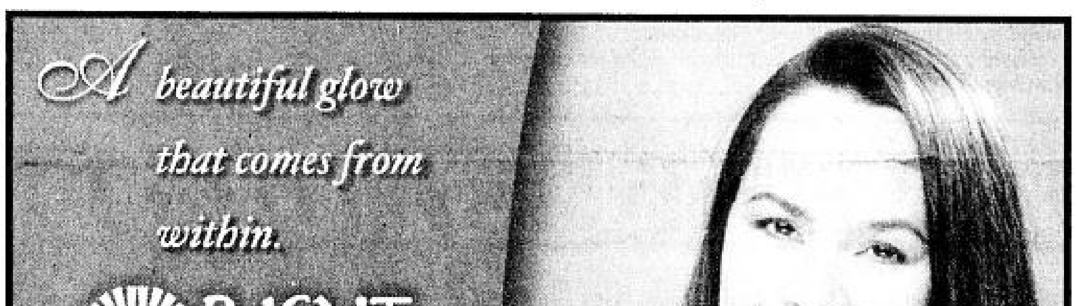

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HONDA

Two frat men slain in QC gang rumble

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

TWO teenaged members of a fraternity were killed when their group figured in an early dawn riot with a rival gang near the House of Representatives in Batasan Hills, Quezon City yesterday.

Gino Pineda, 14, of Daisy Street, Batasan Hills, a member of the Tau Gamma Fraternity, died on the spot after his head was partially blown off by a homemade shotgun during the rumble.

His fraternity brother, 16-year-old Luisito Sta. Maria, of Ilang-ilang Street, also in Batasan Hills, sustained several stab wounds and was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Police said they are hunting down the suspects. They, however, refused to give names but said they belonged to the Magic Five gang.

The scuffle happened at about 1:30 a.m. yesterday along IBP Road in Batasan when the two rival groups had a chance encounter.

Police believed the riot was sparked by an old grudge between the two groups.

Case investigator SPO3 Rodrigo Barrameda said the riot started when some members of Magic Five spotted Sta. Maria and started attacking him.

Seeing his friend in distress, Pineda came to the aid of Sta. Maria but one of the suspects shot him at close range, blowing off the back portion of his head.

Shortly thereafter, a free-for-all ensued. During the confusion, some suspects took turns in stabbing Sta. Maria.

Indians linked to Antipolo blast face forgery charges

BY AGNES DONATO

THE TWO Indian nationals linked to last Monday's explosion at a supermarket in Antipolo City now face forgery charges after police found in their possession several plates for the manufacture of counterfeit money.

Supt. Normandy Carpio, provincial officer of the Rizal criminal investigation and detection group, said suspects Penkej Komar, 27, and Pankaj Jain, 20, yielded a number of plates for the manufacture of fake P100, P500 and P1,000 bills during a raid at the Gems Hotel and Resort last Monday.

Carpio however said that investigation would continue on the two Indians' alleged involvement in the blast which injured two firemen and destroyed at least P1 million in properties at the Rempson Supermarket in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Komar and Jain, both of Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City, checked in at the hotel, which is only 600 meters away from the supermarket, at about 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The Indians, along with a Pakistani and a Filipino who also rented a room in the hotel on the same day, were reportedly seen speaking with a group of Muslims at the hotel premises on the night before the bombs were found at the grocery store.

Hotel employees told police that they found it suspicious that the suspects checked in at the hotel a day before the bombing, noting that it was the first time foreigners had been in the hotel since it opened several years ago.

Forgery charges were yesterday filed before the city prosecutor's office against Komar and Jain. Both suspects have been detained at the Rizal Provincial Police Headquarters.

METROBRIEFS

Jaywalking guard killed by truck

SECURITY guard Rogelio Laguda, 35, of Equinox Security Agency, was killed after he jaywalked near the Balintawak exit of the North Luzon Expressway and was hit then dragged for about 100 meters by an 18-wheeler truck. Police said Laguda was on his way home to East Libis in Baesa, Caloocan when the truck (PUE-512 and URS-776) driven by Rolando Petarco, 26, hit him about 11 p.m. on Tuesday. The truck was bound for Pampaga. Driver Petarco told police Laguda suddenly appeared in the path of the truck. Laguda's mangled body was found pinned under the tires of the truck's trailer, police said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Pasay clubs face closure

PASAY City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad threatened to permanently shut down nightspots in the city found violating laws on illegal drugs and obscenity. He said laws against obscenity, the employment of minors and the carrying of firearms inside nightclubs and other public places would be strictly enforced. Reports reaching the mayor's office showed that some nightspots have become the favorite hangouts of suspected drug lords, Trinidad said. *Nelson Flores*

Armed Muslims . . .

(From page A17)

On Monday, Medina and his men invited Macmac to the NPD headquarters in Kaunlaran Village, Caloocan for questioning. The businessman took along his wife and four other persons.

It could not be ascertained whether police served an arrest warrant for Macmac, a native of Marawi City.

At the NPD headquarters, Macmac denied he was a drug trafficker and phoned his relatives for assistance.

Hours later, around 100 Muslims on board several Toyota Revo vans went to the headquarters to demand Macmac's release, authorities said.

They told police that the businessman was not a drug trafficker. Two of those who stormed the headquarters identified themselves as mayors in Lanao province.

Police later released the suspected drug trafficker for the apparent lack of evidence against him.

A police source, however, said authorities were forced to release Macmac out of fear that the Muslims would attack them.

Querol denied there was trouble at the NPD headquarters Monday night. He said the Muslims "simply went (there) to make clarifications about Macmac's arrest."

Concerned Muslims earlier expressed fear that police would be making indiscriminate arrests following the attack in New York and Washington D.C.

Let's take advantage of this time

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE reasons given by people opposing the sending of Philippine troops to help in punishing the perpetrators of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., are amusing, to say the least.

Bayan Muna's sectoral representative in Congress, Crispin Beltran, says his group is opposed to any offer of assistance "in whatever form, even as a symbolic gesture." Why? Because, this loudmouth says, the United States is planning to "massacre millions" and stage "scheduled murders" in its "bloodthirsty quest for revenge."

You are out of line, Mr. Congressman. While the whole world is offering sympathy, you are trying to get publicity out of the United States tragedy.

***

Another sectoral representative, Satur Ocampo, echoed Beltran's ignorance.

Ocampo is parroting the language of the nationalist leftists of the 1950s and 1960s who were at the time proclaiming Marxist/Leninist/Maoist thoughts that are no longer in vogue today, what with the disintegration of the USSR and China going capitalist.

Ocampo said that the Clark International Airport was going to be used again for "military intervention." He added that "if the United States were to have its way, it would launch "retaliatory attacks" from former US bases in Clark and Subic.

Ocampo, like Beltran, continues to hit at "American imperialism" even while the United States is experiencing untold sufferings as a result of its national tragedy.

Ocampo and Beltran hate the United States because it's a symbol of capitalism. Ironically, the countries that they idolize, Russia and China, are sympathizing with the United States.

***

Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan says the government might be putting the lives of its citizens at risk and "affect our ability to survive any global conflict."

Honasan, who was once considered by the US State Department a "terrorist" for leading several coup attempts in the past, did not care about how many innocent lives were lost when he staged those coups.

Gringo just wants to get back at the United States for once calling him a "terrorist."

***

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, another loudmouth, says that the country would send troops for the global antiterrorism "like we send an ill-equipped team of soldiers who were mowed down by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan."

The former Armed Forces chief of staff added: "Mass slaughter awaits our troops who will go there without weapons and communications equipment."

Ikaw naman, Pong, *parang hindi ka sundalo noong araw* ! Of course, the Americans will give the troops we send to help them get the best weapons and equipment. You were witness to that when the Philippine Contingent to Vietnam was given the most modern arms and equipment at the time. The Americans know how to reward their friends.

***

The government, in fact, will benefit more from sending troops to help the United States than she will benefit from us.

Out of gratitude for the small but sincere gesture, the United States will flood us with the most modern arms and equipment for our armed forces. We've seen that when we sent a small contingent to Haiti to enforce law and order in that country. The US government gave us C-130 Hercules aircraft and other equipment.

Right now, the United States is grieving and she will not forget countries which are sympathizing with her. Uncle Sam will be generous to countries who help her in her hour of bereavement.

Aw c'mon! Let's forget our national pride. The government needs modern military equipment to fight the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army. We can recover our pride when we become a rich country.

***

The United States and the other countries in Europe can help us fight our home-grown terrorists, the Abu Sayyaf.

America knows that the elusive Abu Sayyafs are being supported by Osama Bin Laden who is the suspected mastermind in the US attacks. Bin Laden is hiding in Afghanistan.

The United States says that countries supporting terrorist organizations will be considered in the same category as the terrorists.

If the supply line to the Abu Sayyaf from Afghanistan and other Middle East countries is cut off, our battle against the terrorists and Muslim rebels is already half-won.

***

Jose Ma. Sison, who has sought refuge in Amsterdam, is directing the terroristic activities of some communist groups in the country.

Our government can help the Netherlands government, one of those sympathizing with the United States, to extradite Sison to face charges of murder and other crimes.

We should take advantage of this time when everything seems to be working in our favor in our fight against terrorism.

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Sining ng Komunikasyon para sa Mababang Paaralan
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Koordineytor: Concepcion D. Javier, Ph.D.
Mahusay na pinagsanib ang paglilinang ng iba't ibang kasanayan sa pagbasa, wika, at pagsulat na kailangang taglayin ng mga mag-aaral. Punung-puno ang serye ng modernong mga pagsasanay at estratehiya na humahamon sa kakayahan ng mga mag-aaral na maging malikhain at analitiko.

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(Levels I–IV)
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Meets the need for a quality process- and inquiry-oriented science and technology series for the new millennium.

Reading Network
(Grades 1–6)
Coordinators: Marietta Reyes-Otero, Ph.D. and Delia Hamoy Soro, M.A.
Develops pupils' reading proficiency, communicative competence, and academic skills through a network of innovations in teaching and second-language reading.

High School Physics
Author: Vivencio N. Abastillas, Jr., Ph.D.
Tackles the fundamental concepts, principles, and laws that form the core of physics.

Realistic Math
(Grades 1–6)
Coordinator: Paulino T. Gureng, Ph.D.
Offers more than adequate exercises leading pupils to discover the wonders of math and its applications to the real world.

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Naghahandog ng masaklaw, napapanahon, at kawili-wiling paglalahad ng kasaysayan ng Pilipinas mula sa sinaunang pamayanan hanggang sa kasalukuyang administrasyon ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

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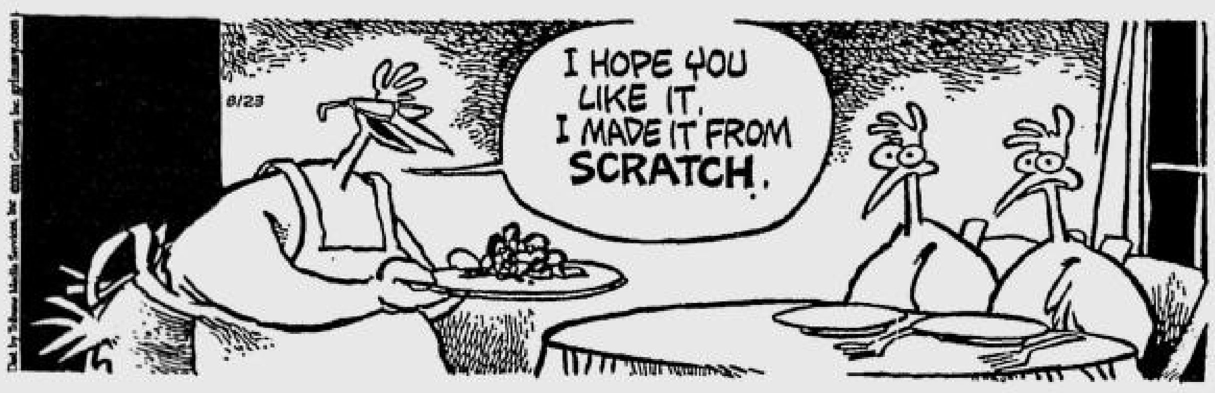
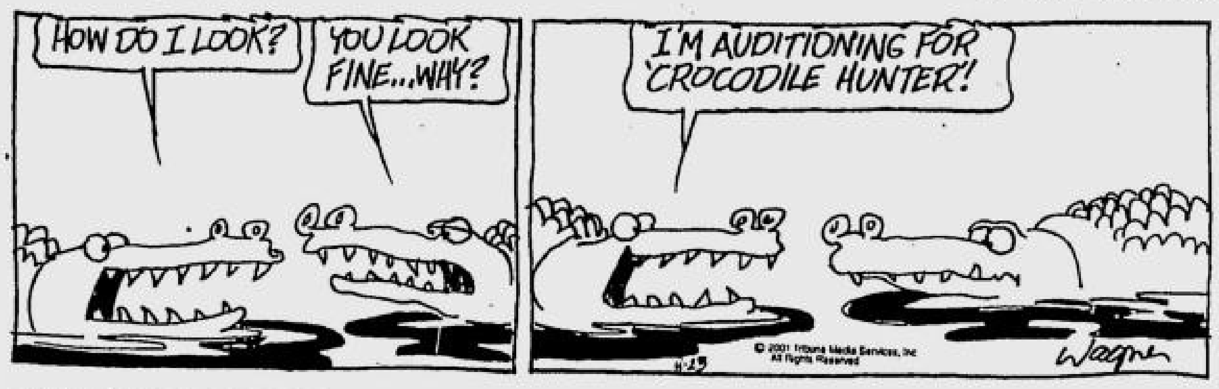
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


8/23
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT. I MADE IT FROM SCRATCH.

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


HOW DO I LOOK?
YOU LOOK FINE...WHY?
I'M AUDITIONING FOR 'CROCODILE HUNTER'!
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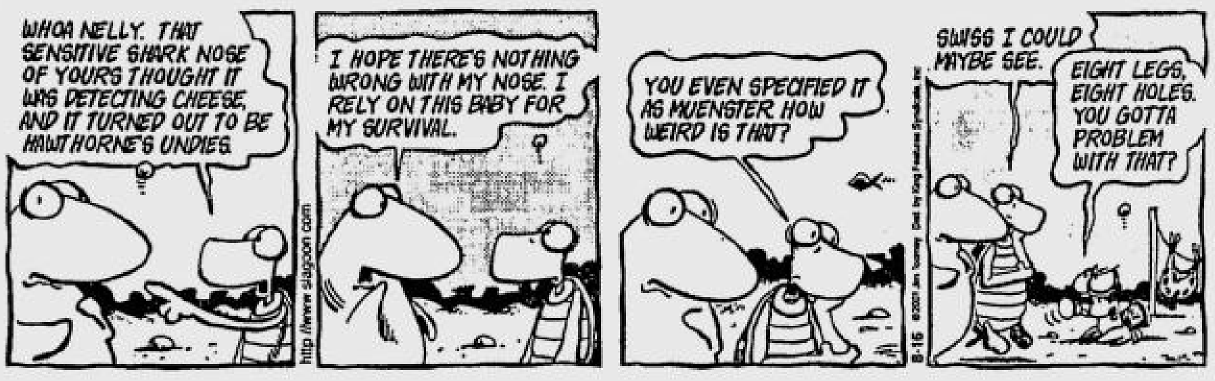
Wagner

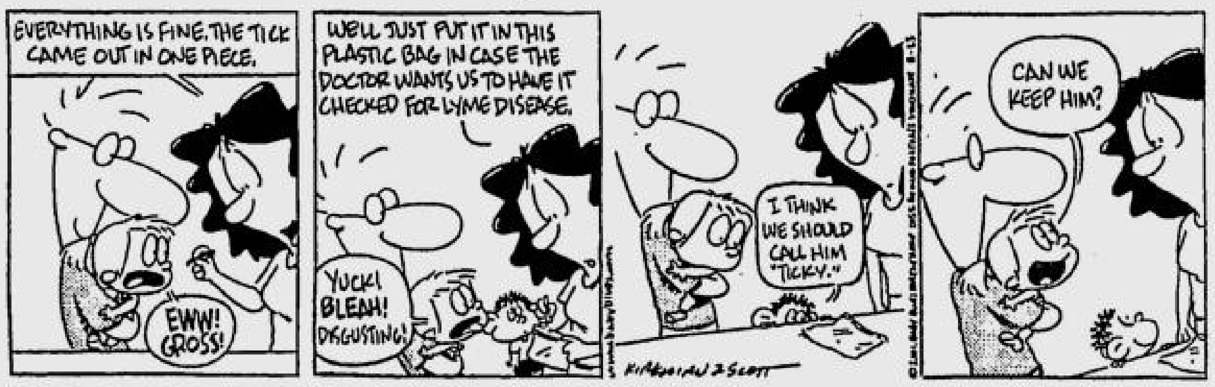
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHOA NELLY. THAT SENSITIVE SHARK NOSE OF YOURS THOUGHT IT WAS DETECTING CHEESE, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE HAWTHORNE'S UNDIES.
I HOPE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY NOSE. I RELY ON THIS BABY FOR MY SURVIVAL.
YOU EVEN SPECIFIED IT AS MUENSTER. HOW WEIRD IS THAT?
SWISS I COULD MAYBE SEE.
EIGHT LEGS, EIGHT HOLES. YOU GOTTA PROBLEM WITH THAT?
http://www.slagoon.com
8-16

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


EVERYTHING IS FINE. THE TICK CAME OUT IN ONE PIECE.
EWW! GROSS!
WELL JUST PUT IT IN THIS PLASTIC BAG IN CASE THE DOCTOR WANTS US TO HAVE IT CHECKED FOR LYME DISEASE.
YUCK! BLEAH! DISGUSTING!
I THINK WE SHOULD CALL HIM "TICKY."
CAN WE KEEP HIM?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anne Meara, Pia Lindstrom, Sophia Loren, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Matthew and Gunnar Nelson

Happy Birthday: This could be your year. A shower of opportunities will perk your interest. You will be ready to take a chance and delve into something you really desire. Your disciplined approach forecasts success. You're inquisitive, inventive contributions make you a welcome addition to any organization you join. Your numbers: 13, 19, 23, 27, 32, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romantic opportunities are present. If you are already in a relationship, plan to do something special with your partner. Single Aries who look around are likely to find someone interesting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Expand your knowledge and enroll for courses offered through work. You will also make some friends by participating in social events with colleagues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make a difference both at work and at home by sharing ideas or lending a hand. This is a chance to get ahead. Being a team player will impress colleagues and your boss.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You won't have to do much to attract attention today. You'll be happy to accommodate others and will receive the attention you've been looking for.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will enjoy kicking your shoes off and relaxing. If you try to meddle or resolve issues, emotional turmoil will result.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get in touch with people who can help you advance. You can prosper if you play your cards right today. Don't be afraid to make professional changes. The outcome will be favorable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Social activities may be tempting, but finish your work before having fun. There are too many opportunities and changes at work for you to be slacking off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let events unfold and you won't be disappointed. If you get all worked up, you will end up making a poor decision. Take your time and be circumspect. The longer you hold out, the better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make a difference if you can convince others to follow suit. Your contributions to world problems will bring acclaim.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look to someone you admire. His or her insight will help you make the decisions you have been laboring over. Opportunities are present, but you aren't seeing them. Listen,learn and do whatever is necessary.

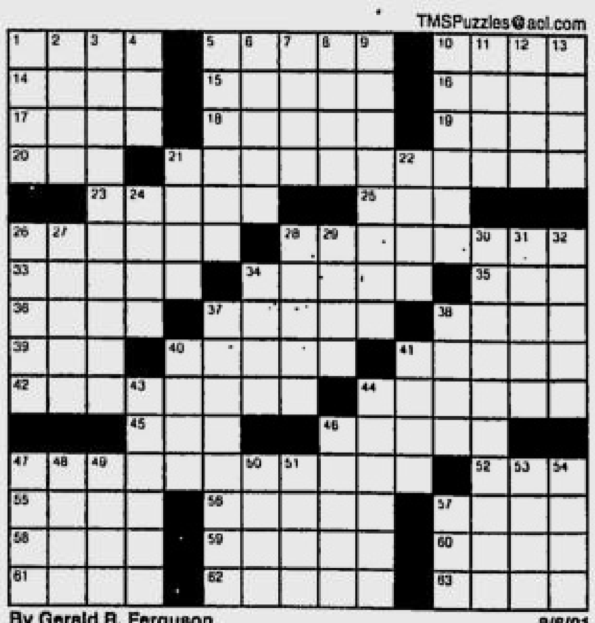
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get on with living. You've been holding back way too long. You can't live in the past if you want to turn your life around. Things are looking good, so get busy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop sitting around feeling sorry for yourself. All sorts of good things are happening, but you aren't taking advantage of them. Romance is standing next to you, so get busy and enjoy your partner. If you are single, circulate and you'll be sure to find one.

Birthday Baby: You have a strong sense of your beliefs and self. You are a fighter for truth, justice and tradition. You aren't afraid to take the initiative to reach your goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR
8/6/01

ACROSS
1 Hemingway's sobriquet
5 Security devices
10 Huff and puff
14 Calla lily, e.g.
15 Local lingo
16 Concerning
17 Peruvian capital
18 French soldier in WWI
19 Wiry
20 Mercator projection
21 Long, lean lads
23 Metric weights, briefly
25 Sister
26 Lithographer Redon
28 Intimidates
33 Tendon
34 Boorish
35 Charlemagne's realm: abbr.
36 Elec. units
37 Shepard and King
38 Folk wisdom
39 The: It.
40 Skedaddles
41 Use crayons
42 Visor
44 Bets
45 Kisser or mush
46 Batting champ seven times
47 Nebraskans
52 Crone
55 "Typee" sequel
56 Tropical porch
57 Protagonist
58 Praise
59 "Maxie" star
60 Shakespearean villain
61 Martial ___
62 Abalone eater
63 Word in an octagon

DOWN
1 Conceal in one's hand
2 Opera highlight
3 Dessert for Peter?
4 MD's grp.
5 Tea maker
6 What the nose knows?
7 Roman 103
8 Cologne, to Germans
9 Complacency
10 Ore of lead
11 On a cruise
12 Getz or Kenton
13 Soprano Lily
21 Dilatory
22 Scots' trillings
24 French islands
26 Missouri tributary
27 In the half-light
28 Declaim
29 Boxlike vehicles
30 Bread choice
31 Blunder
32 Prognosticators
34 Enclothed
37 Mexican resort
38 Theater area
40 Man of the Peacock Throne
41 Train units
43 Ecclesiastical councils
44 More cautious
46 Discontinue
47 Coke or Pepsi
48 Persian poet Khayyam
49 Disorderly retreat
50 Granular seasoning
51 Windsor or bowline
53 Jason's galley
54 Sticky, wet stuff
57 Cary Grant movie, "___ Girl Friday"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	L	A	P	T	R	A	P		B	Y	P	A	S	S
L	I	C	O	R	I	C	E		R	E	E	D	I	T
O	N	C	E	O	V	E	R		A	N	G	E	L	A
T	E	E		O	A	T		D	E	S		L	E	I
H	U	D		P	L	A	N	E	S		M	A	N	N
E	P	E	E	S		T	O	W		D	E	I	C	E
			S	H	E	E	R		R	E	N	D	E	R
P	I	P	P	I	N	S		S	O	L	D	E	R	S
U	N	R	I	P	E		S	A	D	I	E			
S	T	I	E	S		R	U	N		B	L	A	D	E
S	H	E	D		B	U	N	D	L	E		C	O	X
Y	E	S		W	E	B		F	O	R		T	I	C
C	A	T	H	E	R		A	L	C	A	P	O	N	E
A	I	L	I	N	G		S	E	A	T	I	N	G	S
T	R	Y	S	T	S		P	A	L	E	N	E	S	S

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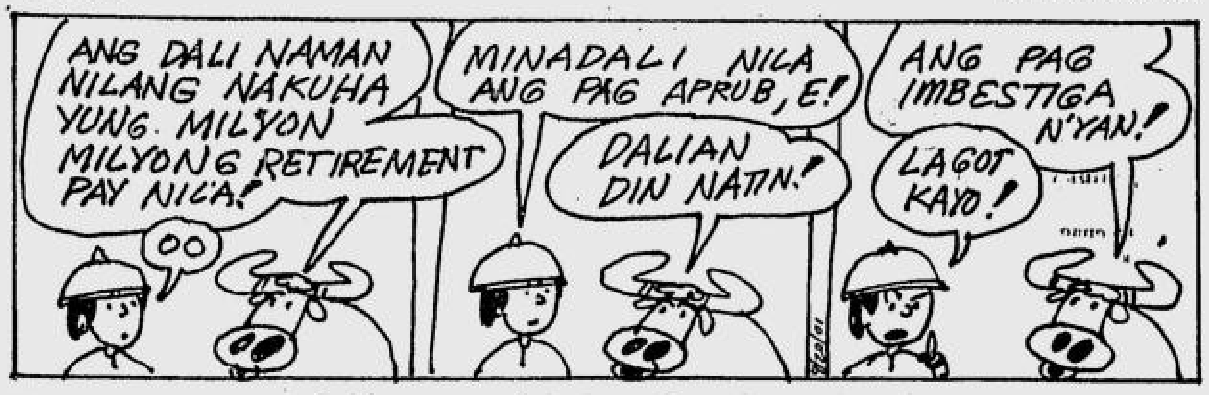
8/6/01

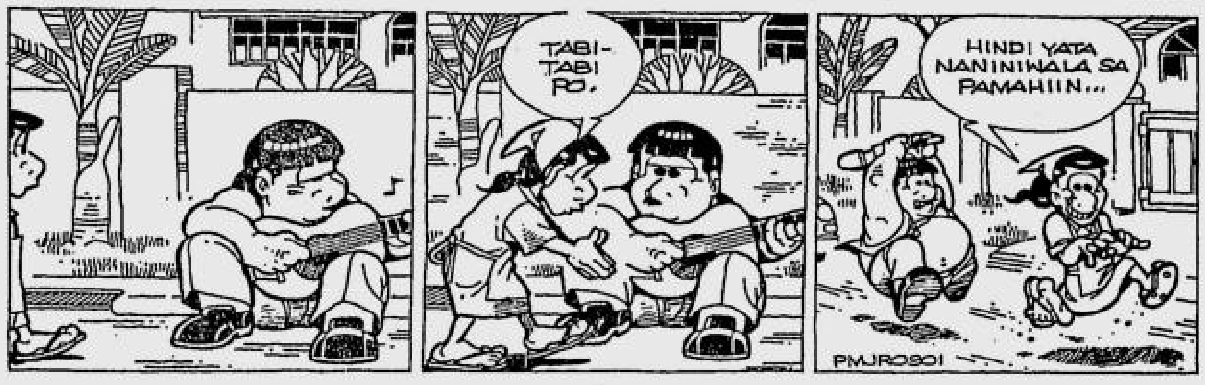
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DALI NAMAN NILANG NAKUHA YUNG MILYON MILYONG RETIREMENT PAY NILA!
OO
MINADALI NILA ANG PAG APRUB, E!
DALIAN DIN NATIN!
ANG PAG IMBESTIGA N'YAN!
LAGOT KAYO!

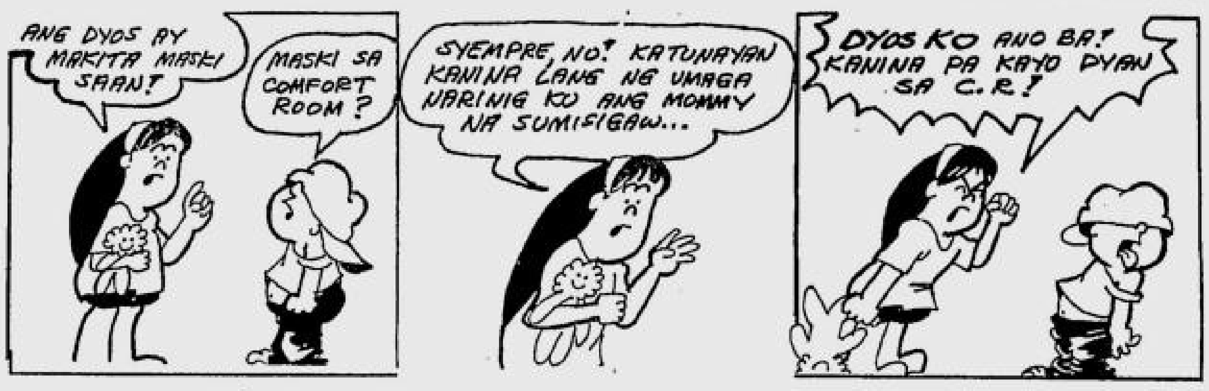
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TABI-TABI PO.
HINDI YATA NANINIWALA SA PAMAHIIN...
PMJR0901

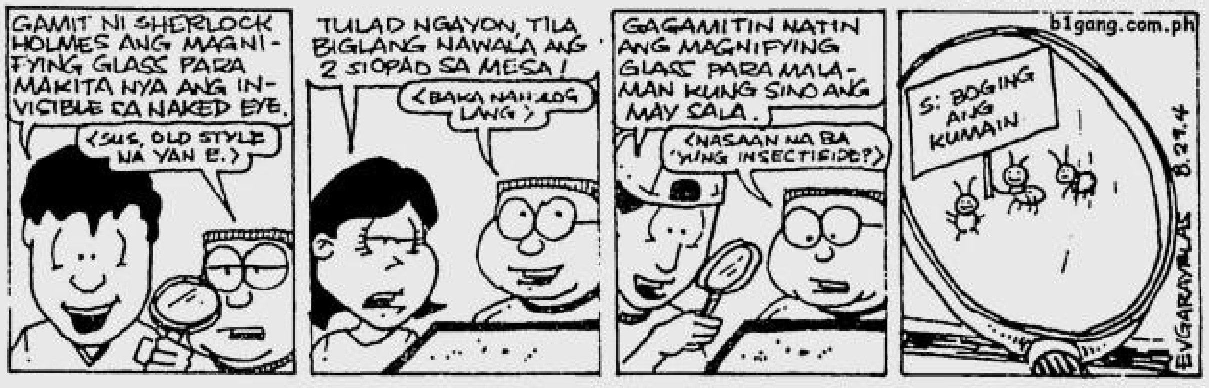
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG DYOS AY MAKITA MASKI SAAN!
MASKI SA COMFORT ROOM?
SYEMPRE, NO! KATUNAYAN KANINA LANG NG UMAGA NARINIG KO ANG MOMMY NA SUMISIGAW...
DYOS KO ANO BA! KANINA PA KAYO DYAN SA C.R.!

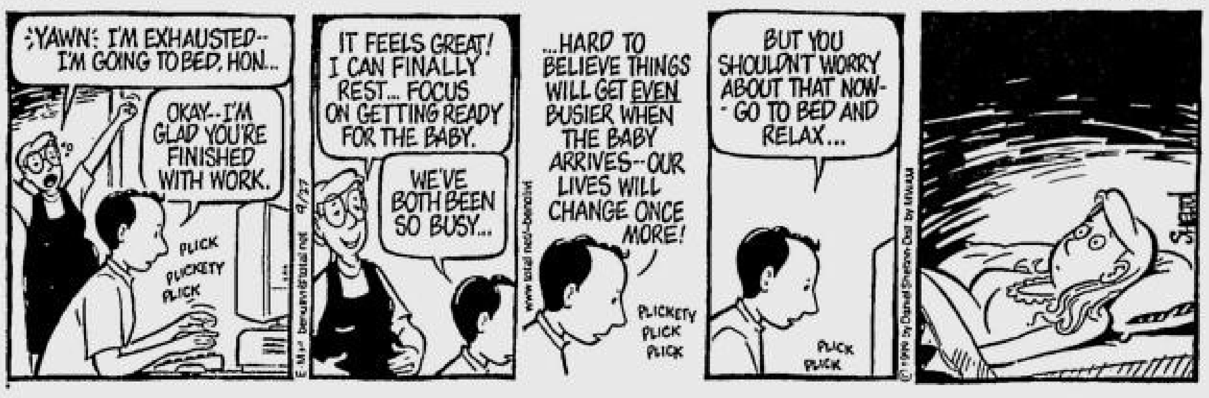
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


GAMIT NI SHERLOCK HOLMES ANG MAGNIFYING GLASS PARA MAKITA NYA ANG INVISIBLE SA NAKED EYE.
<SUS, OLD STYLE NA YAN E.>
TULAD NGAYON, TILA BIGLANG NAWALA ANG 2 SIOPAO SA MESA!
<BAKA NAHULOG LANG>
GAGAMITIN NATIN ANG MAGNIFYING GLASS PARA MALAMAN KUNG SINO ANG MAY SALA.
<NASAAN NA BA 'YUNG INSECTICIDE?>
b1gang.com.ph
S: BOGING ANG KUMAIN
EVGARAYALAE
8.29.4

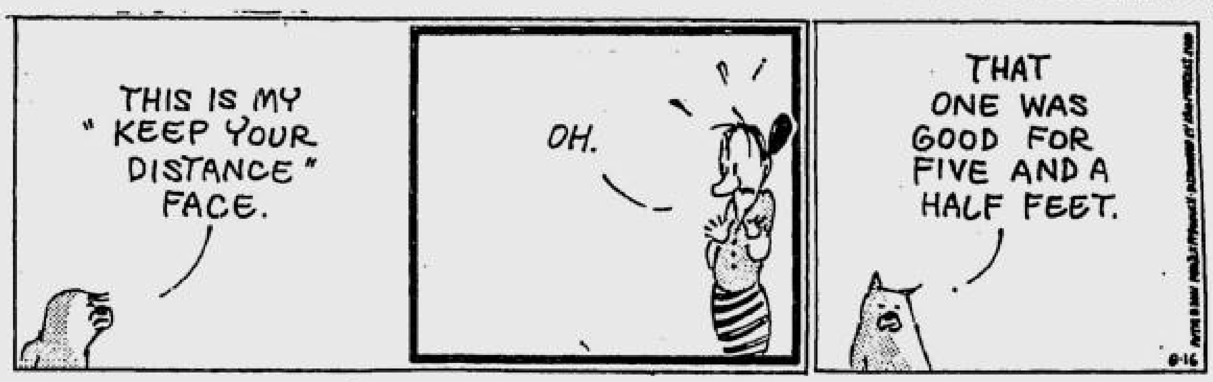
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


:YAWN: I'M EXHAUSTED-- I'M GOING TO BED, HON...
OKAY--I'M GLAD YOU'RE FINISHED WITH WORK.
PLICK PLICKETY PLICK
IT FEELS GREAT! I CAN FINALLY REST... FOCUS ON GETTING READY FOR THE BABY.
WE'VE BOTH BEEN SO BUSY...
...HARD TO BELIEVE THINGS WILL GET EVEN BUSIER WHEN THE BABY ARRIVES--OUR LIVES WILL CHANGE ONCE MORE!
PLICKETY PLICK PLICK
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW--GO TO BED AND RELAX...
PLICK PLICK
SHELTON

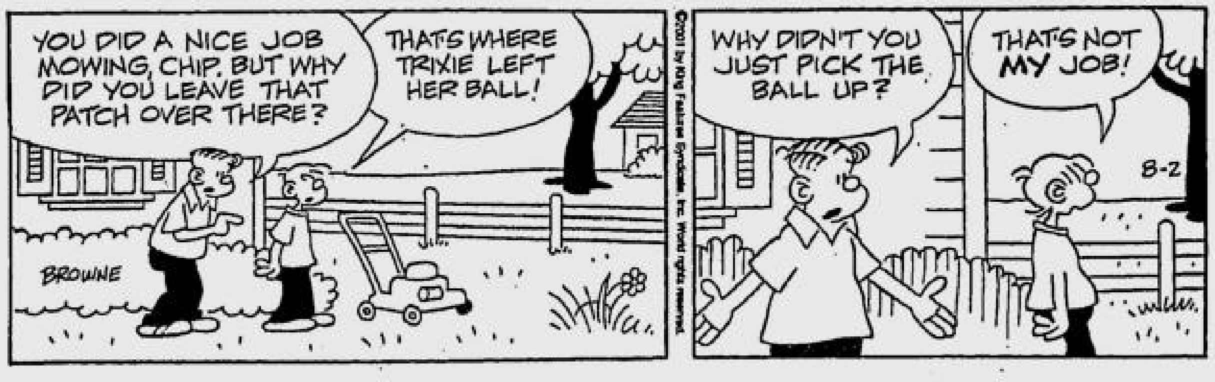
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "KEEP YOUR DISTANCE" FACE.
OH.
THAT ONE WAS GOOD FOR FIVE AND A HALF FEET.
8-16

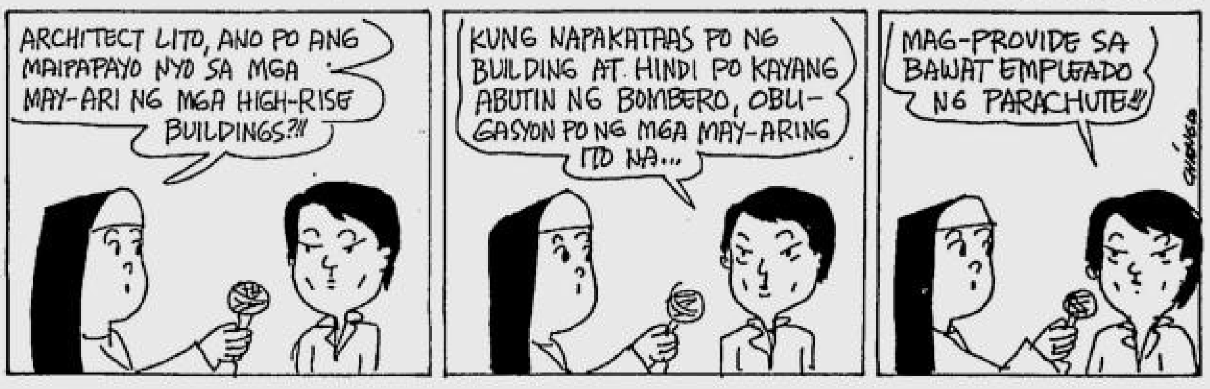
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU DID A NICE JOB MOWING, CHIP, BUT WHY DID YOU LEAVE THAT PATCH OVER THERE?
THAT'S WHERE TRIXIE LEFT HER BALL!
BROWNE
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST PICK THE BALL UP?
THAT'S NOT MY JOB!
8-2

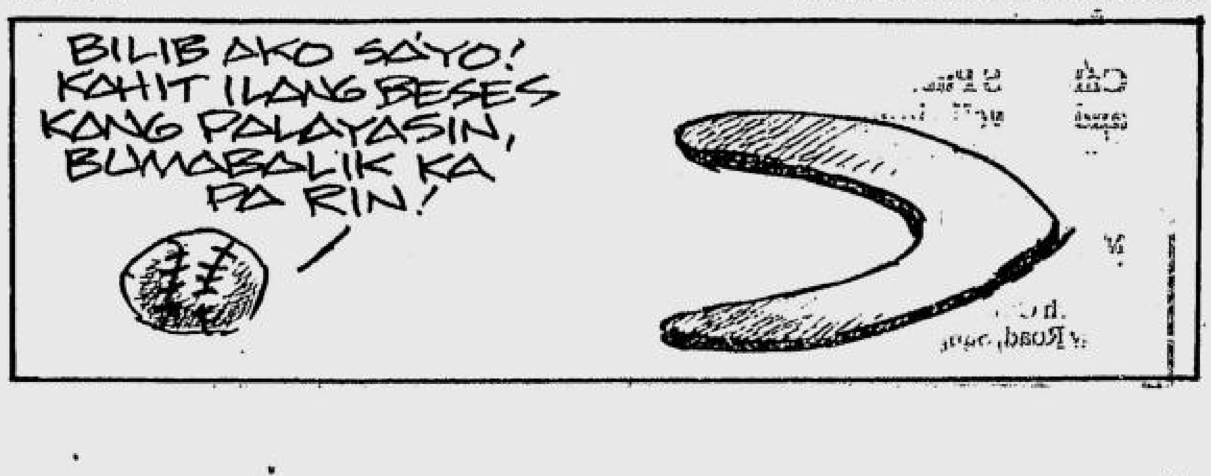
LOVEKNOTS

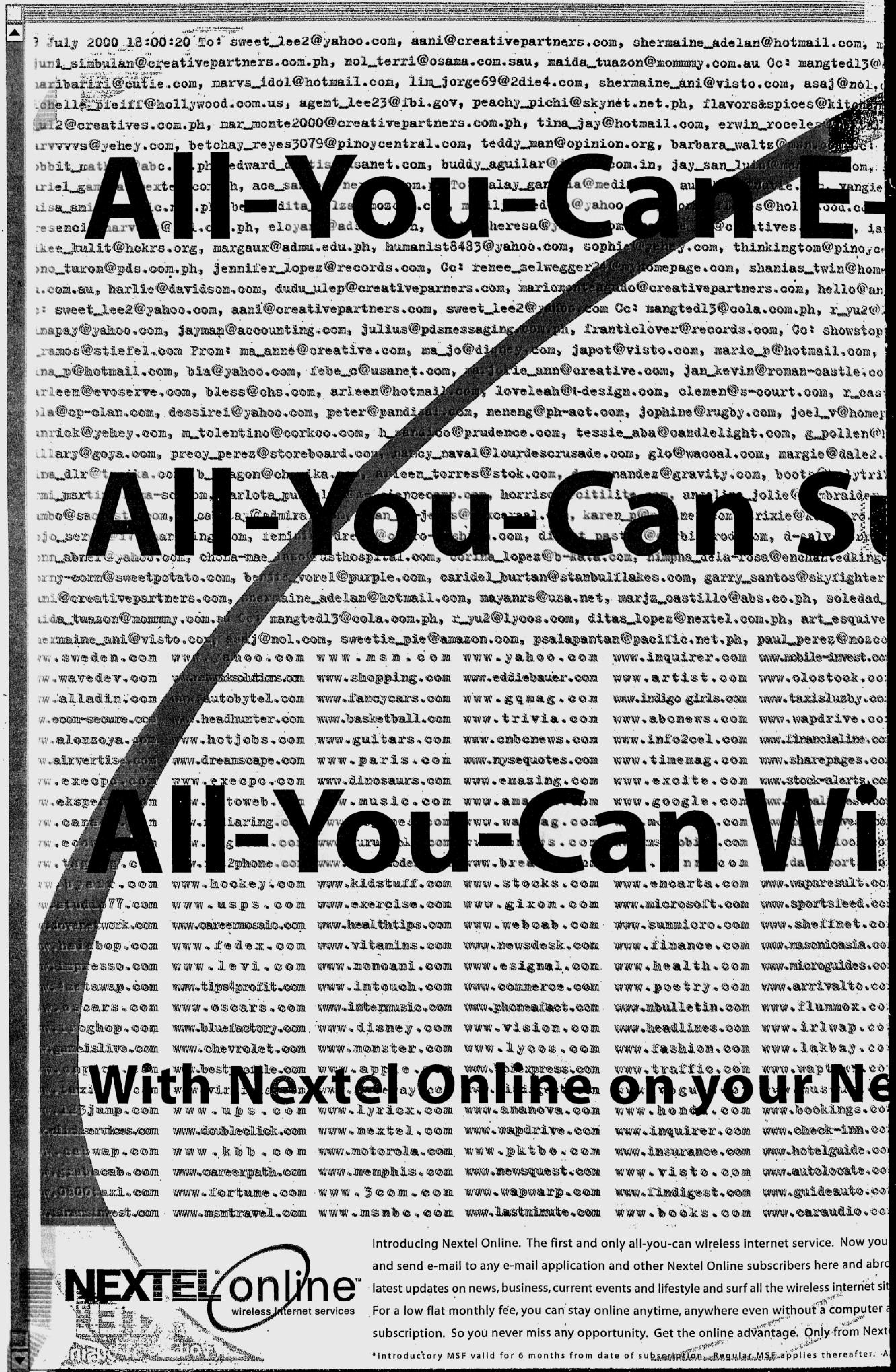
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ARCHITECT LITO, ANO PO ANG MAIPAPAYO NYO SA MGA MAY-ARI NG MGA HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS?!!
KUNG NAPAKATAAS PO NG BUILDING AT HINDI PO KAYANG ABUTIN NG BOMBERO, OBLIGASYON PO NG MGA MAY-ARING ITO NA...
MAG-PROVIDE SA BAWAT EMPLEADO NG PARACHUTE!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BILIB AKO SA'YO! KAHIT ILANG BESES KANG PALAYASIN, BUMABALIK KA PA RIN!



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9	BANYO QUEEN
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11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	PUKYUTAN

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7	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	KNIGHT'S TALE
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	RUSH HOUR 2
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12	A.I.

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2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	CLOSED
4	ORIGINAL SIN
5	A.I.
6	ENEMY AT THE GATES
7	BANYO QUEEN
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	SCARY MOVIE 2
10	PUKYUTAN

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2	BANYO QUEEN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

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4	A.I.
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6	BANYO QUEEN
7	SCARY MOVIE 2

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1	BANYO QUEEN
2	CLOSED
3	RUSH HOUR-2
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	PUKYUTAN
6	ENEMY AT THE GATES
7	CLOSED
8	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

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1	A.I.
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	PUKYUTAN
5	MANO MANO 2
6	BANYO QUEEN

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3	PRINCESS DIARIES THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	ORIGINAL SIN	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SCARY MOVIE 2	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PRINCESS DIARIES	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ORIGINAL SIN	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 21,22, 27,28 &29–8PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	PRINCESS DIARIES THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	ORIGINAL SIN	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ENEMY AT THE GATES	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	RUSH HOUR 2	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDD)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS)	A.I.
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ORIGNAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 [illegible]	BANYO QUEEN
9 [illegible]	RUSH HOUR 2
10 [illegible]	SCARY MOVIE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	BURLESK QUEEN
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
2 (DTS)	
3	BURLESK QUEEN

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	PUKYUTAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
7	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
8	PUKYUTAN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

PRINCESS DIARIES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CATS & DOGS
2	RADYO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BURLESK QUEEN
A	PUKYUTAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	MANO MANO 2
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PUKYUTAN
5	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
6	BANYO QUEEN
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
9 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	MANO MANO 2
4 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
5	PUKYUTAN
6 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8	SCARY MOVIE
9	BAKIT DI ...

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN
4	MANO MANO 2
5 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	BAKIT DI ...

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
Lords	BANYO QUEEN
Jennet	PUKYUTAN

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PUKYUTAN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	PUKYUTAN
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
5	BANYO QUEEN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	PUKYUTAN
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	BURLESK QUEEN

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	PUKYUTAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVED
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	RESERVED
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2 (DTS)	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	BANYO QUEEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ANIMAL
2	A.I.
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	RESERVED
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS)	BORLESK QUEEN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3 (DTS)	PUKYUTAN
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
5	MANO MANO 2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	PUKYUTAN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	CROCODILE
3	VENUS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MANO MANO 2
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	BANYO QUEEN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PUKYUTAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PUKYUTAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	PUKYUTAN
3	MANO MANO 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CROCODILE 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	MANO MANO 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	MANO MANO 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS EX)	ENEMY AT THE GATES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. No.: 700-8314 to 15
E-mail: premierethx@asia.com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 75[illegible]-3150 to 55
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
NOW SHOWING
Walt Disney Pictures presents
THE PRINCESS DIARIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail: htcs@nsasia.mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA
632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	A KNIGHT'S TALE.
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I.
9	BANYO QUEEN
10	ORIGINAL SIN

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BANYO QUEEN
6	A KNIGHT'S TALE
7	ORIGINAL SIN

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	RESERVE
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	ORIGINAL SIN
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	PUKYUTAN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I.
3	SCARY MOVIE 2
4	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
5	SCREAM....FRIDAY 13TH
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BANYO QUEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PANINDA/TEASER
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	BORLESK QUEEN
ROBEN	PUKYUTAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DUNGEON... / DRIVER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	PUKYUTAN
REMAR-2	BURLESK QUEEN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BANYO QUEEN
B	MANO MANO 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-3	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-4	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-5	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	PRINCESS DIARIES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	SOON TO OPEN
CINEMA-2	SOON TO OPEN
CINEMA-4	SOON TO OPEN
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	THE STRANGER
CINEMA-2	AMBISYOSA
CINEMA-4	THALIA

Listening to my favorite . . .

(From page A23)

way he talked to his audience that he was no stuck-up superstar. But by calling his latest CD "Superhero," he must have known he would raise eyebrows. He said: "There are people who do things everyday that go unrecognized, like teachers, firemen, police, parents. That sort of grace is what I aspire to and what people should aspire to and these songs talk about those moments and frankly, the sort of man I hope to be.

"You can view this album as a diary of the past years of my life and these songs as a beacon for me to try to reach higher."

McKnight has always pushed himself creatively and refused to simply rest on his considerable laurels. "Superhero's" eclectic pop-R&B mix is exhilarating proof that after five albums, he may be making the best music of his life. "I had tremendous fun making this album and I didn't get caught up in the notion of trying to duplicate past hits or necessarily sticking to my sound. I said, 'OK, what can I do to make things more fun? I've got this great support from the label and the fans, what can I do to push things a little?'"

The answer is on tracks like the explosive title song which finds him in no-holds-barred, classic rock mode, inspired in some part by melodic but heavy acts like AC/DC, Van Halen and The Who.

"Yeah," McKnight chuckled, "I'm sure people haven't heard this side of me before but I really wanted to showcase my guitar playing and kinda show a side of me that's different."

Yet another facet of his talent is the single "Love of my Life" which shimmers with sexiness. It is a shout-out to such idols as Marvin Gaye and Prince.

"I can work that upper range and I know doing that is yet another aspect of my sound that folks may be surprised by. That's why I'm so into this album. More than I have in the past, I listened to my heart and my instincts."

From ballads to up tempo, from gospel to rock, funk and R&B, "Superhero" finds him bringing more and more of his influences into play.

"This album has the best elements of my four previous albums and it's the most well-rounded. I'm always aware of what my role is as a songwriter and that's not to tell only my story for myself, but to be able to speak to others. The greatest thing that someone can tell me is that listening to one of my songs got them through a tough time. That's what writing should be about, that universality."

His music speaks to the hero in us all.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Stars and scribes together, 2

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

YESTERDAY, we detailed some of the questionable aspects of the relationship between stars and the media people who cover them in Hollywood. What about the local film scene? It's much more compromised—and compromising.

In the '50s and '60s, we understand, things were much less reprehensible than they are now. The few big studios chose a few "deserving" writers to attend their press conferences so they could write about their new films.

Later, however, when the independent studios got into the picture, some writers were paid monthly or per-movie retainers to write favorably about a studio's productions and contract stars. And, when they attended presscons, they were given "taxi money" for their time and effort.

In the '70s, aside from working on the side as PRs for studios or stars, some writers also became talent managers. Naturally, they pushed their contract stars in their articles or columns so they would deserve the managerial fees they charged—and, so much for objective comment and evaluation.

The most hydra-headed person of all is the writer who is also a PR, a talent manager, reviewer, an editor, a line producer—and even a TV-radio-film performer and talent in his own right! He works himself to a frazzle—but he runs laughing all the way to the bank.

The corrupt press people in "America's Sweethearts" are picayune players compared to the master operators we have in these parts.

The victim, of course, is objectivity. Writers are supposed to report objectively about the movies and film stars they cover, but if they are beholden to so many people in so many different ways, they're as subjective as subjective can be.

This is reprehensible because, instead of being correctly informed, the reading and viewing public gets unreliable reports. If they choose to believe those compromised reports, as many do, they will be inveighed into watching bad films that are "supposed" to be good, and admire stars for performances that have been proclaimed to be good, but are actually dismally incompetent.

Of course, readers should be able to learn from past mistakes. If they've been duped once, they should be leery of the duper from here on in. In time, the observant and analytical reader and viewer should be able to tell which writers to believe in, and which to disbelieve.

If they don't do that, they will only continue to play into the hands of the blithe "fiction" writers on the local film scene, and will have nobody else to blame but themselves.

Feedback

From **Terra J. Daffon**, SVP, Corporate Affairs of ABC-5: "Thank you very much for your comments on the four new shows (particularly 'Urban Doktor') we fielded on the 9:30 p.m. weekday slot starting Aug. 20 (The others are 'Trabaho Lang,' 'The Exchange' and 'On Air')

"It was a nervy decision, mounting such untried formats and pitting them against the formula dramas and sitcoms—but innovation is one territory we've staked a claim on. I'd like to give credit to Ideal Minds, our co-producers for these shows, for helping us boost our reputation for off-the-beaten track programs.

"We have taken note of your suggestions for 'Urban Doktor;' they will help make this delightful program even better. We will appreciate your comments on the three other shows."

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
A MUST SEE!
CAMERON DIAZ SHINES IN THIS FILM!
THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS
Jordana Brewster Christopher Eccleston & Cameron Diaz
Based on Jennifer Egan's first novel, follows the journey of eighteen-year-old Phoebe, who travels to Europe in the late 1970s to find out what had caused the death of her sister, Faith, several years earlier while traveling there with her boyfriend, Wolf. On her journey of discovery, Phoebe retraces Faith's trail from San Francisco to Paris, and finally to Portugal to the very cliff side village where Faith had committed suicide -- but not before experiencing a bad LSD trip and sleeping with her dead sister's boyfriend first. It's a haunting tale that interweaves death, mystery, memory and loss. But more than that, it delves into the fathomless pith of the '60s -- a generation whose dreamers indulged in ideals that seemed to turn the world, and their own lives, upside-down and inside-out.

Listening to my favorite 'Knight' sing live

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I'VE always been a huge fan of **Brian McKnight**. His signature song, "One Last Cry," was my personal anthem many heartaches ago.

But my all-time favorite McKnight song is "Home." It sums up the sentiments of a Born-again Christian like me.

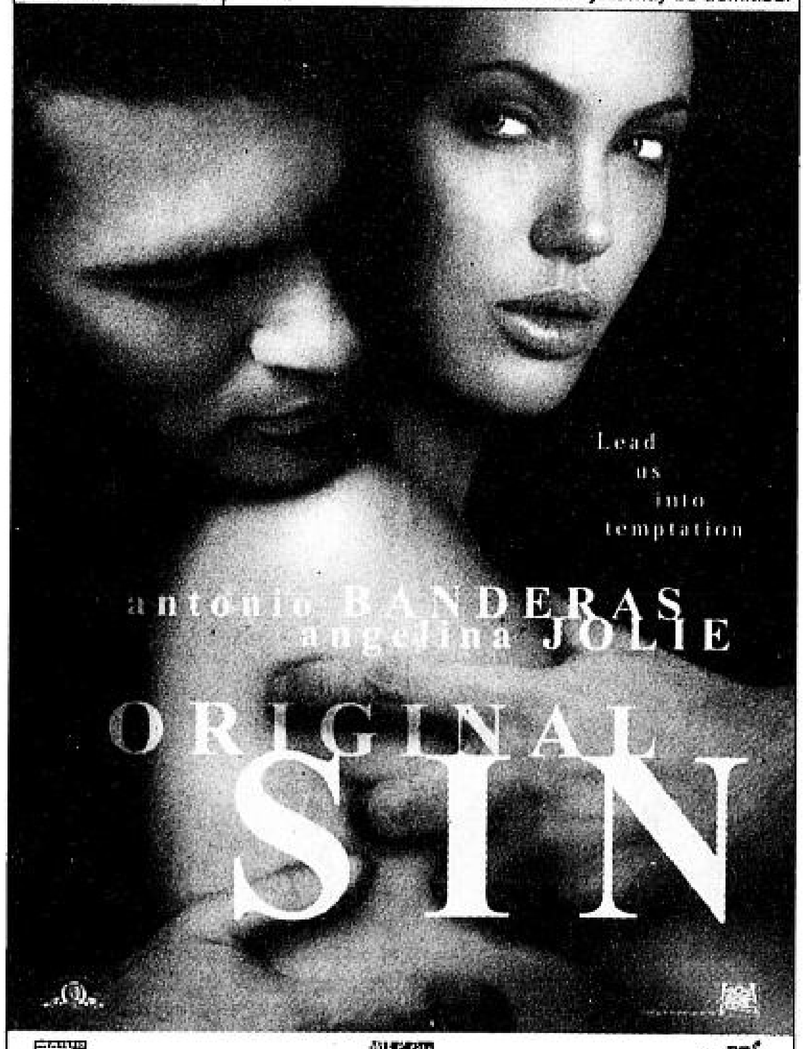
When I heard that Brian was in town to promote his latest album, "Superhero," I didn't pass up the chance to watch him perform live.

As early as 7pm, Hard Rock Café was already packed. It was an SRO affair. I didn't mind standing during the entire show. Brian's voice is so soothing I hardly felt the strain on my feet.

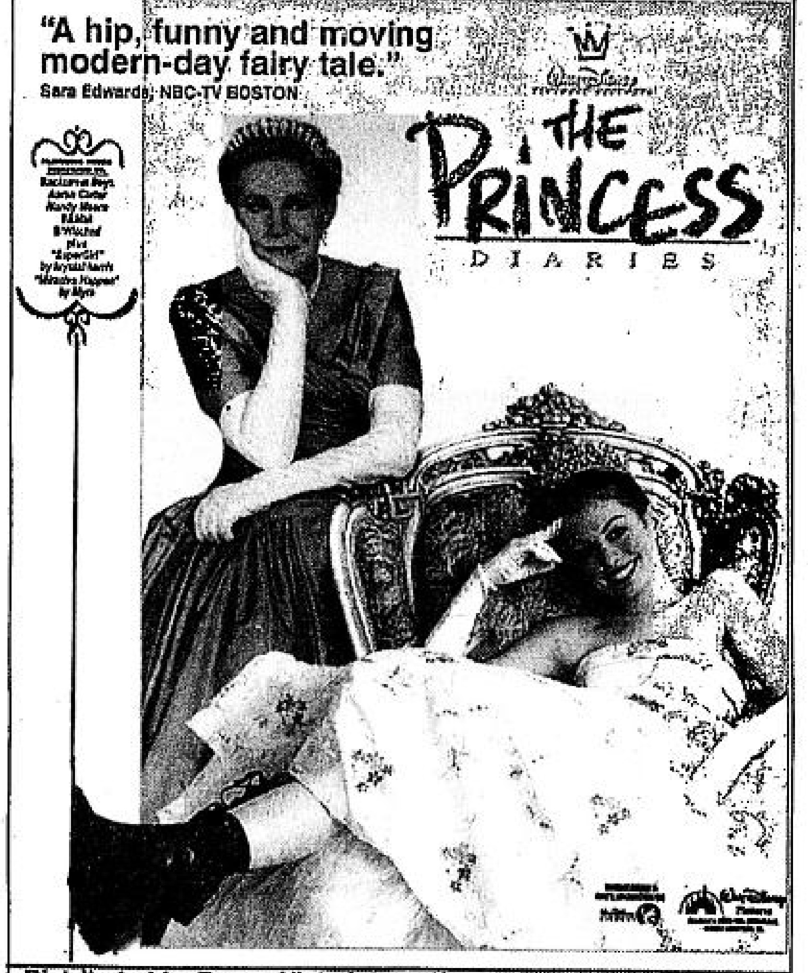
He sang five cuts from his new album but the crowd clamored for more so he sang his hits "One Last Cry" and "Back at One."

I got goose bumps hearing him sing live. And I could tell by the

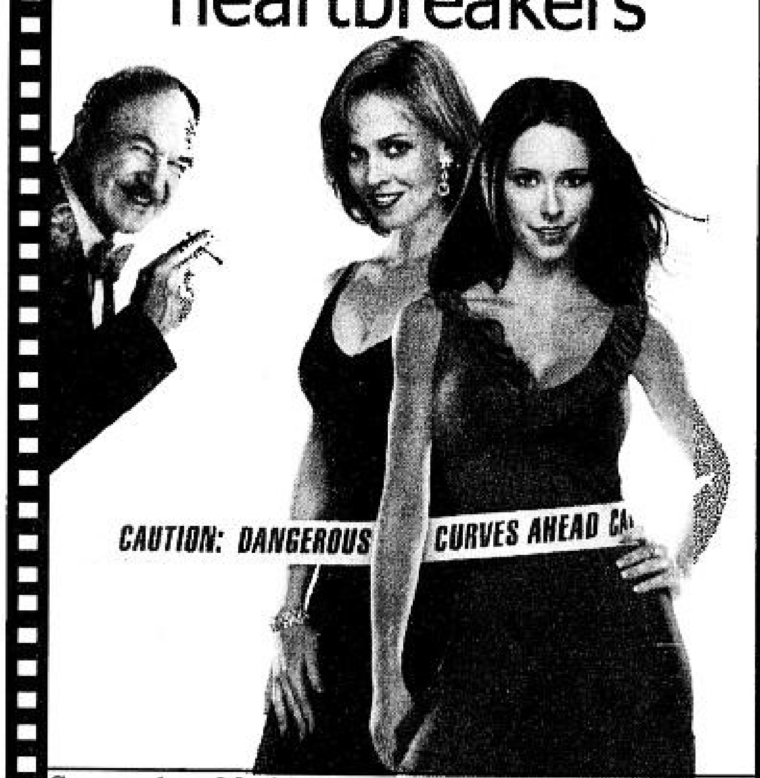
LISTENING/ A22



NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
Lead us into temptation
antonio BANDERAS angelina JOLIE
ORIGINAL SIN
DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.



2ND "COOLEST ROYAL TRANSFORMATION" DAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
From The Director Of "PRETTY WOMAN" and "RUNAWAY BRIDE"
Julie Andrews Anne Hathaway
"A hip, funny and moving modern-day fairy tale."
Sara Edwards, NBC-TV BOSTON
THE PRINCESS DIARIES
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



SM ADVANCE SCREENING CINEMA
Sigourney Weaver Jennifer Love Hewitt Gene Hackman
heartbreakers
CAUTION: DANGEROUS CURVES AHEAD
September 20, 2001 • Thursday, 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 3
MTRCB RATING P13
This WAVE 89.1 Premiere is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SCARY MOVIE 2 - R 18 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	A KNIGHT'S TALE - P 13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45	ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
ENEMY AT THE GATES - R 18 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri. 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
RENZO CRUZ and LEANDRO BALDEMOR
featuring PYKE MONTEVERO
INA RAYMUNDO in
Burlesk Queen NGAYON
RE - ISSUE
RICKY BELMONTE • JEAN SABURIT • TERESA LOYZAGA and ROY RODRIGO
ALVIN ANSON • MARITA ZOBEL • CLOYD ROBINSON • BRYAN HOMECILLO • ENRICO CONTRERAS
with CAMILLE ROXAS and ALMA SORIANO
Photographed by ROMY VITUG
A Film by JOSE N. CARREON
An [illegible] FILM INTERNATIONAL Special Presentation

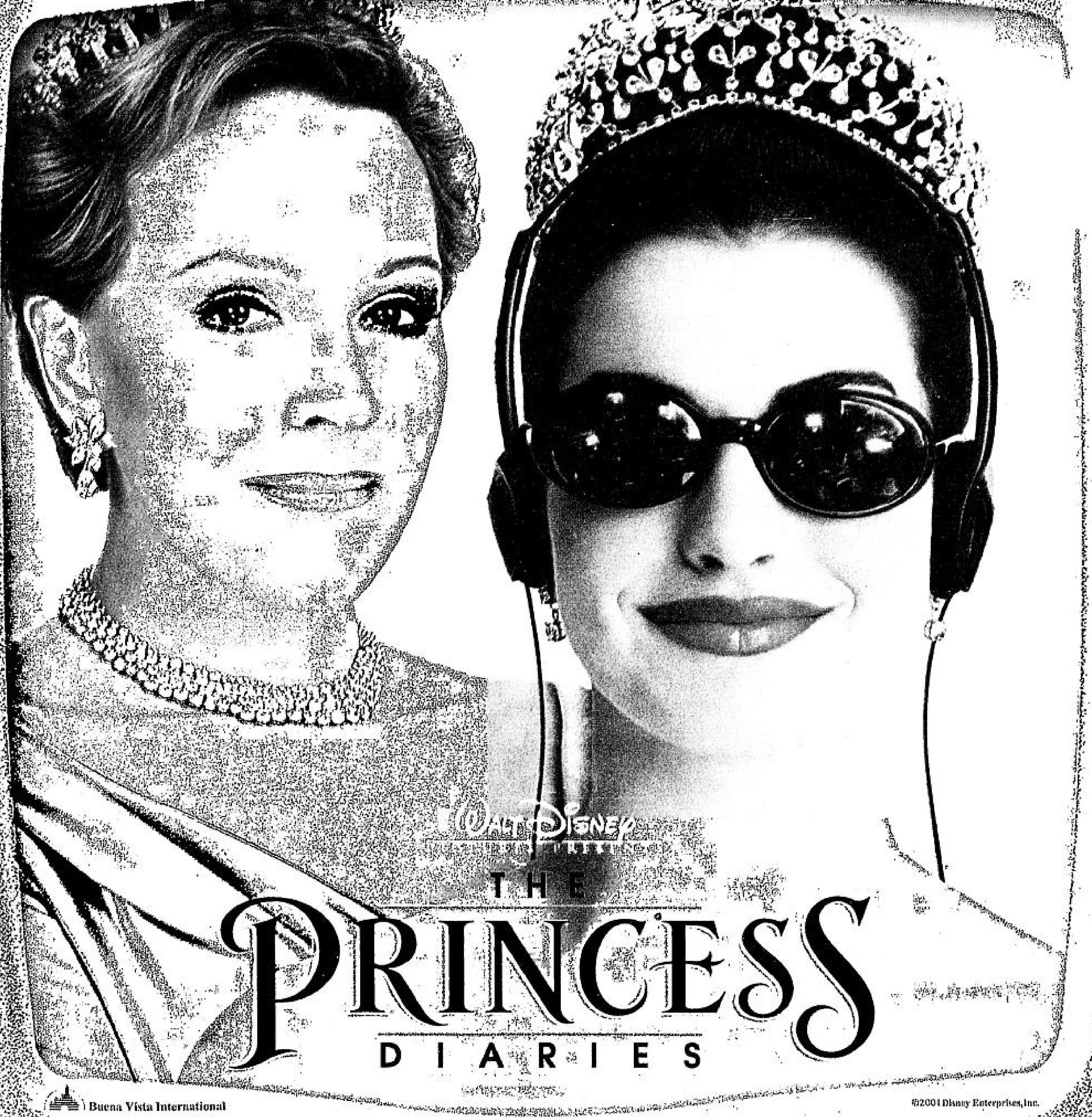
He Will Rock You!
2ND 'ACTION + COMEDY + ROMANCE' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
EBERT & ROEPER AND THE MOVIES
"'A Knight's Tale' kicks off the summer season in HIGH STYLE! A blend of 'Gladiator' and 'Shakespeare in Love'..."
ANDREW JOHNSTON US WEEKLY
Featuring music from Robbie Williams + Queen Third Eye Blind, David Bowie WAR & Eric Clapton
HEATH LEDGER
A KNIGHT'S TALE
aknightstale.com
SOUNDTRACK FEATURING "WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

zed
Will you and your blind date end up as a blind item?
Find out with zed Flames on your cell phone.
Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per destiny. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
To find out your destiny:
1 Type in FLAMES <NAME1> <NAME2> Ex. FLAMES FRANK SHARON
2 Send to 288

From The Director Of "Pretty Woman" And "Runaway Bride"

Meet The Newest Member Of The Ruling Class.

THE SMART Cinema Club
invites you to watch



Walt Disney Pictures

THE PRINCESS DIARIES

Buena Vista International

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www.princessdiaries.com

MTRCB Rating: GP

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Official Princess Diaries logos

crown1	crownslogan	crowntitle	diarytitle6	title
(Operator Logo/Group Graphic)	(Picture Message/Screen Saver)	(Operator Logo/Group Graphic)	(Picture Message/Screen Saver)	(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

Show some class with the official Princess Diaries graphics. All these are available only to Smart Cinema Club members, so join now by keying in **JOIN CINEMA**. To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your friends' numbers>. You can invite up to three friends at one time. If you need more information on different keywords, key in **HELP** <command>. Send all commands to 239.

To Get Princess Diaries...	Key In...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO PD and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP PD and send to 239
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC PD and send to 239

To Get Princess Diaries...	Key In...
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List of Keywords	SAVER PD and send to 239
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To take the Personality Test	PLAY <PD/PD2/PD3/PD4> and send to 239
To invite a friend to take the test	SHARE <your friend's #> and send to 239

All text messages sent are P2.50 each.

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only **Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250

Promo Mechanics:

1. From Sept 14-20, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a logo, picture message, group graphic, or screen saver shall get one computer-generated point each. The top fifty cinema club members with the highest points collected will win two free regular screening movie passes each for The Princess Diaries at SM cinemas (GMA only). To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Winners will be notified via text message or a voice call to their registered celfone number.
3. Prizes will be sent to the winner's registered address. Winners should present their active Smart GSM celfone with the winning SIM number and valid I.D. w/ photo.
4. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at SM Megamall from Sept. 14-20 will automatically win a pair of Princess Diaries movie tickets. Smart Money cardholders can win only once and may claim their tickets at TSI Center located at SM Megamall, 5th level, Bldg. A. Princess Diaries movie passes will be accepted at any SM cinema until the end of the regular screening day.
5. Promos are valid for GMA residents only.

WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'RE FIT FOR ROYALTY?
Take the Princess Diaries personality test on your celfone!
Key in PLAY <PD/PD2/PD3/PD4> and send to 239.
Let your friends to take it too. Key in SHARE <your friend's #> and send to 239. Take any of these tests:

PD -- Which famous personality are you?
PD2 -- You and your crush...match or complement?
PD3 -- What's your personality?
PD4 -- Are you high or low maintenance?

To answer the test questions, simply press REPLY and key in the number (1, 2, 3, or 4) corresponding your choice. Press SEND.

Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you take the test.

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BUSINESS

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HONDA

Foreign banks target OFW remittances

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

BANKS abroad are closing ranks to press the Philippines into passing a law against money laundering. Their current target: dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Several banks in the United States have advised the Philippines' biggest lenders that they will no longer handle dollar remittances unless they get a full disclosure of information about the accounts being used by overseas Filipino workers, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice chair Cesar Virata told the INQUIRER.

Dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers "will be examined," Virata said. "In other words, it will not depend only on a bank's credit. They will inquire who the remitter is, where his dollars come from. They will be asking questions like: Do you know the affairs of your clients? Do they have a regular business? Can they afford to make these remittances? Do they have the resources to make these investments?"

"What is in doubt is the capacity of the clients to remit," he said.

"If a bank in the Middle East, for example, remits through a US bank, there will be a long list of questions. The individual remittances of overseas Filipino workers may be small, but when you lump them together, they may arouse suspicion that these are being used to move dirty money," he said.

"There will be delays and, in some cases, if you cannot explain, the money is subject to confiscation," Virata warned. "That is why I think Congress should act rapidly because overseas Filipino workers are supporting a lot of families here."

Industry officials warn that restrictions being readied by banks abroad may significantly hamper the flow of dollar remittances to the Philippines. Overseas Filipino workers remit about $6 billion each year. Some $4 billion come from the United States.

The First Union Bank of Delaware earlier notified 12 local banks that it would slap additional requirements when processing transactions from the Philippines. The US-based bank said it would start seeking more information on the identity of depositors and the nature of transactions involving Philippine banks, including those handled by No. 2 lender Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has warned of "an increased risk of a breach in the confidentiality of deposit accounts" unless the Philippines passes an anti-money laundering law by Sept. 30.

"This means foreign banks can require absolute and general waivers on account ownership confidentiality before accepting transactions for processing," Buenaventura said.

"This requirement adds to the cost of business because the additional documentation and verification associated with general waivers translate into more work and, therefore, more time spent in processing transactions," he said.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force has already turned down the Philippines' request for more time to pass a law against money laundering.

The FATF, an inter-government agency formed by the Group of Seven industrialized nations, has given the Philippines until Sept. 30 to pass a law against money laundering.

Congress, which has gone on recess, is unlikely to meet this deadline, with some lawmakers saying they may be unable to approve an anti-money laundering law earlier than Oct. 15.

Faced with this possibility, the BSP and the Department of Finance had asked the FATF to give the Philippines more time to pass a law against money laundering.

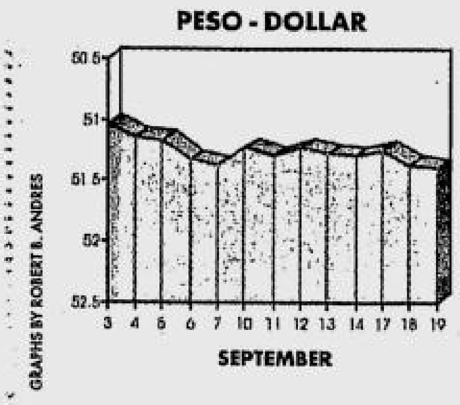
But with international concern over money laundering reaching new heights following recent terrorist at

FOREIGN/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

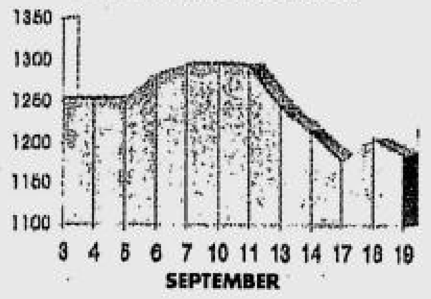
₱51.40 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 19, 2001

¥117.64 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 19, 2001

GOLD:$289.25/290.25
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 19, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares fall 1.6% on record low turnover

SHARE prices closed 1.6 percent lower yesterday on record low turnover amid uncertainty after the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed 19.33 points lower at 1,187.05.

Turnover set a new record low at 174.29 million shares worth P157.2 million, compared with 566.98 million shares worth P258.36 million traded on Tuesday.

Dealers warned the index was yet to bottom out as investors liquidate their positions in favor of cash in uncertain times.

"I think we can expect more people unloading shares, and the market is going to fall again, maybe this time to challenge 1,100," said Henry Ong of KGI Securities Inc.

"I think it is difficult to get investors to come into the market, especially when there's talk of war," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas. "I guess investors don't understand that war could be good for the market, but at least that gives a chance for the minority to earn."

Roxas said during the 1991 Gulf War, the US stock market, as well as other equities markets worldwide, proved to be resilient and even posted huge gains at some point. *AFP*

Megaworld offers to develop oil depots

MEGAWORLD Corp. has offered to develop the property to be vacated by the oil depots in Pandacan, Manila, in joint venture with the big oil companies that own them.

In separate letters to the heads of Caltex Philippines Inc., Petron Corp. and Shell Philippines, Megaworld senior vice president Cirilo L. Manlangit said the vacated land could be converted into a mixed-use riverside commercial and residential project that will optimize the use and usage of your land.

"A viable and profitable redevelopment of the depot will help your relocation more possible and doable," he said.

The oil firms are set to relocate their oil depots in Pandacan, which is less than a kilometer away from Malacañang Palace, to Batangas or Bataan.

Manlangit said Megaworld would also like to offer its expertise and services to undertake a feasibility study on how to maximize or enhance the value of the real estate component in the relocation plan.

Havoline
55
56
57
58

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What Drives You CALTEX

Last ditch airport

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN the beginning many of us thought it was just a prank. Really, that sheet of paper, masquerading as a contract, involving Terminal 3 of the Naia, is outrageously funny.

Luckily, as usual, the joke is again on us! For who else must pay for the lopsided contract? All of us, whether rich or poor, are equal in the eyes of the airport terminal fee.

The fee turns out to be, under the alleged contract, a delicious $20 per passenger. At the present exchange rate, that's P1,000 per—or double the present terminal fee.

For the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.—or simply Piatco—the contract is therefore one hell of a grand ballroom party.

Out of the $20 per passenger terminal fee, the government, which awarded the contract to Piatco without much ado, thank you, stands to earn an amazing $1. Nice, no?

* * *

IT all started during the time of Kuya Eddie. At that time, the Kuya wanted to impress the world so much, he ordered some local taipans to spend their own money.

They were to build us a world-class airport terminal. Thus the Emerging Dragons—remember them?—came into being. It was a short existence, though.

For a few years the dragons in those taipans just would not emerge. Enter Piatco. A group of small-time airport operators, Piatco just snatched the project from the taipans.

The Emerging Dragons wanted to fight it out in court. Word at that time was, the Kuya prevailed upon them just to do nothing. Everything, as usual, was under control.

Under the administration of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . the contract with Piatco did a Cha-cha. Or was it a Concord? Yes, beau gest, it was amended.

Still unhappy with the changes, Piatco got the contract supplemented. Meaning, things were added to it. Twice, at that! Things were added to the contract two times.

* * *

NOW here's an idea how, aside from that highway robbery of a terminal fee, the ever-changing contract is giving it to us in the beh . . . you know where!

The total cost of the project amounts to $350 million. At today's exchange rate, that's roughly P18 billion. By itself, that's a lot of money. Again, by itself.

From the two existing terminals of Naia our beloved government is already earning about P2 billion a year. They, under the Piatco contract, have to be phased out.

Under the beautiful contract, Piatco pays the government P700 million a year for the 25-year period of the contract. It's not even half of its airport earnings at present.

And if the government earns P2 billion a year from the Naia operations, multiply that by 25, and you get P50 billion. That's what Piatco stands to earn. Minimum!

Thus, while Piatco rakes in a profit of P32 billion, the government gives up roughly the same amount in its yearly airport earnings.

I thought that P30 billion could build for us a couple more of the same terminal. Which the contract, by the way, does not allow. Gosh, it's even a monopoly!

To think, our government is doing nothing about this anomaly. There's no last ditch effort to change the lopsided airport contract. So we all pay for it. Thanks, guys!

* * *

NOTICE that this cute administration is spending on infrastructure in Metro Manila. The Department of Public Works and Highways even had to redo its program for 2002.

That was upon orders of Gloriaetta herself. It seems the DPWH spreads itself around too thinly by spending on various projects scattered all over the country.

Such a policy creates no impact at all. Thus the DPWH is redesigning its spending program to make Metro Manila into a showcase of modern infrastructure. *Sana nga.*

But how come, while Gloriaetta herself is pushing for mass transit system to solve traffic in the metropolis, the MRT extension project is still hanging.

It spans that stretch between North Avenue in Quezon City to the Bonifacio monument in Caloocan City. The extension should connect the MRT with the LRT to make a complete loop around the metropolis. It is the missing link.

* * *

ANYWAY, in her recent working visit to Tokyo, Gloriaetta herself boasted to top executives in Japan about her vision. She said she wanted five more mass transit lines.

And so Gloriaetta even urged Japanese companies to look into the BOT approach for those mass transit systems. You know—BOT, just like the BOT of Piatco?

Indeed, Gloriaetta is convinced that the ultimate solution to the traffic problem in Metro Manila is mass transport, and nothing else. Many of us agree of course.

In its recent meeting, nevertheless, the Neda board, which Gloriaetta herself chairs as economist-in-chief, still failed to approve the MRT extension project.

That's not even 10 kilometers of an extension to an already existing, running mass transit system, and it's taking time to start. What more of Gloriaetta's vision of more than a hundred more kilometers of rail system?

* * *

THE thing is, the Neda board is close to giving the project a go. The Department of Transportation and Communications is already for it, plus the Department of Finance.

There is, according to my info, just one Cabinet member still against it. And he is none other than . . . well, he looks exactly like Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

Certainly, my good friend Mar has his own reason for opposing the MRT extension. Whatever it is, I just hope it's not out of personal grudge or something.

The good secretary belongs to the Araneta clan, which owns almost all of Cubao. They are said to have had dealings with the MRT people on the Cubao station.

From what I gathered, Progressive Development Corp., which is owned by Mar's family, had to cough up a huge amount to have a station right in front of Araneta center.

But whether or not Mar thinks that, now, it's his turn to make life difficult for the MRT people, well, nobody can really say. I'm sure he's against it for a good reason.

I don't think he just wants the rest us to suffer from all this terrible traffic. Like it or not, there's no alternative, and we have to finish the MRT sooner or later. So why can't we just do it now?

Ayala eyes Boni housing project

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Land Inc. will pursue a new residential project within the Fort Bonifacio Global City if the Metro Pacific group accepts its proposal to develop an 18.9-hectare property inside the former military facility.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael said ALI had offered P1.23 billion for a 55-percent stake in a new company to be spun off by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

FBDC, a joint venture between the Metro Pacific-led consortium Bonifacio Land Corp. and state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority, is the developer of the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

BLC is selling its 55-percent stake in the project to free up more resources to retire debt and develop the rest of the Global City.

ALI was the lone participant in the bidding, although there were two other groups that had been prequalified—Robinsons Land Corp. of the Gokongwei family and a consortium led by PentaCapital Investment Corp.

"Should its bid be accepted, ALI intends to develop the property for mixed use, with low-density residential use as the principal use. Residential use will primarily focus on subdivision lots, with townhouse and condominium developments also being intended within the property," Ysmael said.

The P1.23-billion bid for the project, Ysmael said, was "commensurate with the relatively lower densities afforded by this land use."

But analysts estimated that the bid was much lower than BLC's acquisition of these lots when it won the bidding as the joint venture partner of the BCDA for a 225-hectare portion of the former military base.

ALI's bid is subject to other terms and conditions and requires the approval of the BLC board of directors, which will meet today to discuss whether or not to accept the proposal.

BLC is expected to announce the board's decision by tomorrow.

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SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

DATE & TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTED BY:
September 20 (1:30 p.m.)	Gum Arabic Look of the Future	Jumbo Trading Co., Ltd.
September 21 (1:30-2:30 p.m.)	PaperOne: All Purpose Paper	JND Int'l Corp. / April Fine Paper
September 21 (3:00-5:00 p.m.)	The Papers of the Future	Star Paper Corporation

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SCHEDULE OF FREE TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

DATE & TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTED BY:
September 19 (1:30 p.m.)	"The Art in Packaging: Making Your Products Stand Out"	San Miguel Packaging Products
September 19 (3:00 p.m.)	"Recent Developments in MICA Water-based Primer Technology"	TPT International, Inc.
September 20 (10:30 a.m.)	"Raxson Ink Dispensing Systems: Management & Cost Control Aspects"	TPT International, Inc.
September 20 (1:30 p.m.)	"Plate Making & Du Pont Cyrel Technical Center Offering"	Du Ponts Far East Inc. Philippines
September 20 (3:30 p.m.)	"Basic Adhesion Technology with Sherman Treaters"	Celmar Trading Corporation
September 21 (10:30 a.m.)	"Latest Developments in Solventfree Lamination & Cold Seal Applications"	TPT International, Inc.
September 21 (1:30 p.m.)	Globis Presentation	Globis, Inc.
September 21 (3:30 p.m.)	Globis Presentation	Globis, Inc.

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Foreign . . .

(From page B1)

tacks on key financial and military installations in New York and Washington, the FATF has instead stepped up its efforts to compel money-laundering havens like the Philippines to comply with its requirements.

As the name suggests, money laundering is the process of cleaning dirty money. The money is "dirty" in the sense that it comes as proceeds from illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery and computer fraud. This is done by either disguising the sources of the earnings, changing their forms or moving the funds to places where they are less likely to attract attention.

The central bank's Buenaventura warns that with the FATF rejecting the BSP's and finance department's plea for more time, the Philippines runs the risks of exposing its banks to "unnecessary scrutiny."

He said the country would also face "additional sanctions" that could serve as "a potential disincentive for investment in and business with Philippine companies."

Unless an anti-money laundering law is in place by Sept. 30, he said, the Philippines would face "adverse advisories" that may prevent international banks and financial institutions from doing business with companies here.

These advisories "will create a bias, encouraging international banks to take caution when handling any Philippine-based transactions."

"This means that normal business transactions may be considered or treated as possibly suspicious, in many cases discouraging foreign parties from investing or doing business with Philippine companies," Buenaventura said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, September 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54.5	54.5	53	53	438,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	26.5	27	77,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	209	206	208	33,380
Philippine National Bank	52	52	52	52	16,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	4,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	300
Union Bank of the Phil.	21	21	20	20.25	721,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1200	1200	1200	540
Sun Life Financial Serv.	985	985	985	985	2,260
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	28	28	28	28	5,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	2,130,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	650	630	645	1,040
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	490	490	482.5	485	35,150
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	32,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29	29.5	29	29	9,400
Manila Electric Co. B	40.5	40.5	39	39	209,300
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	2,941,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.8	85,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.48	0.39	0.44	1,530,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	516,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	4,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24.25	24	24	439,600
RFM Corp.	2.06	2.2	2.06	2.18	3,363,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39	38.5	39	16,300
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	11,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	480,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	5.9	595,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	550,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.76	0.72	0.76	60,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	17,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	4,095,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.75	0.75	230,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	85,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Ionics Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	32,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.64	280,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,150,000
Music Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	2,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	5,200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.75	0.76	0.75	0.76	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	930,000
Manila Jockey Club	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	187,400
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.1	5	5.1	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	29	29	27	27	54,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.008	0.008	0.007	0.0075	49,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	54,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.45	1,171,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.74	1.78	1.66	1.68	2,179,000
City & Land Developers	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	2,980,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.0034	0.004	0.0034	0.004	6,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	22,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	23,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,700,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,299,080	50,838,210.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	125,957,790	77,446,650.00
PRO	8,793,000	27,669,500.00
Mining	30,622,000	939,600.00
OIL	6,700,000	49,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	173,429,870	157,089,560.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	486.62	DOWN 10.14
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,671.93	DOWN 17.85
PRO	470.71	DOWN 12.17
Mining	1,179.06	DOWN 33.31
OIL	1.36	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	671.16	DOWN 2.38
Composite	1,187.05	DOWN 19.33

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 39; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 89; NO. OF TRADES: 1,420

CURRENCIES

Sept. 19, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.077586	1.000000	51.3750
Japan	Yen	0.009193	0.008531	0.4383
United Kingdom	Pound	1.582759	1.468800	75.4596
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138330	0.128370	6.5950
Switzerland	Franc	0.674884	0.626292	32.1758
Canada	Dollar	0.685357	0.636011	32.6751
Singapore	Dollar	0.621804	0.577034	29.6451
Australia	Dollar	0.533459	0.495050	25.4332
Bahrain	Dinar	2.858471	2.652661	136.2805
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.287357	0.266667	13.7000
Brunei	Dollar	0.620015	0.575374	29.5598
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024407	0.022650	1.1636
UAE	Dirham	0.293460	0.272331	13.9910
Korea	Won	0.000832	0.000772	0.0397
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.928000	47.6760
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.474479	24.3764
France	Franc	0.152450	0.141473	7.2682
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.421108	21.6344
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.067440	3.4647
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023005	1.1819
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000479	0.0246
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.156078	8.0185
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004629	0.2378
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005577	0.2865
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023005	1.1819
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.178317	60.5360

Neda sees stronger 3rd quarter growth

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is looking at a stronger third quarter growth in the economy due to a lower unemployment level in July.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Neda Director-General Dante Canlas said the 1.8 million jobs generated as of July this year could easily translate to improved production.

With this, Canlas said the growth in gross domestic product in the third quarter could be higher than the earlier target of 2.6 percent. For the fourth quarter, the GDP growth target was placed at 3.9 percent. The country's GDP grew by 3.2 percent and 3.3 percent in the first and second quarters of the year.

"We have to revisit our third quarter target because the recent unemployment data leads us to think that we can have a very good third growth in output," he said.

Unemployment data in July reached only 10.1 percent compared with 11.2 percent in the same month last year.

For the entire year, the Macapagal administration is targeting an economic growth of 3.3 to 3.8 percent.

Canlas was also confident that the 6 to 7 percent inflation target this year would be met and that the lower August inflation rate of 6.3 percent was sustainable.

For his part, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he was confident the Philippine economy could afford to post a growth of 3 to 4 percent.

"We will have to focus on the domestic economy so we can maintain our growth momentum. That is why we are focusing on housing and agricultural modernization," said the finance chief.

Camacho admitted, however, that the domestic economy provided little room for growth and would not suffice in fighting the war against poverty.

"To win the battle against poverty, the economy needs to grow by 5 to 7 percent in the medium-term and for that to happen, the global environment must be conducive," he said.

Government officials said the growth targets would be maintained despite the global slowdown that might arise following last week's terrorist attack on the United States.

Canlas said the impact on the domestic economy of the attacks on the US, if there would be any, would be felt only starting next year.

Imports, exports down as demand weakens

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S import bill has started falling again in July after posting growth in three months starting April as most local manufacturers became more cautious in building up their inventories in the light of the global economic slowdown.

The National Statistics Office yesterday said that last year's imports contracted by 0.6 percent year-on-year in July to $2.66 billion. This showed a big drop from the 4.6-percent annual growth posted in June.

With total merchandise exports of only $2.59 billion, the balance of trade for the month posted a deficit of $66 million. For January to July, the country still enjoyed a trade surplus of $667 million although the amount was lower than the $2.82 billion recorded in the same seven-month period last year.

For the month of July, electronic component imports, which amounted to $471.15 million, accounted for the bulk or 17.7 percent of the total import bill.

Purchases of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ranked second with a 12.6-percent share or $335.85 million, 16.4 percent lower than the year-ago level.

Other top imports for the month included telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, office and electronic data processing machines, industrial machinery and equipment, and transport equipment.

Raw materials and intermediate goods accounted for 39.5 percent of the total bill, followed by capital goods with a 36.1-percent share.

Mark Securities head of research Manny Cruz said the expansion in import bill from April to June was only driven by the local manufacturers' move to build up their inventories in preparation for the peaking of demand in the third and fourth quarters.

"Given the bleak economic scenario and a possible global recession, the real trend in imports has started to show. I think imports will continue to decline in the following months," Cruz said.

ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo said she was expecting that the increase in imports from April to June was not sustainable.

Lorenzo said the weak demand for Philippine exports was one of the major reasons for the decline in imports since a big portion of the country's imports was used as inputs to the country's major exports.

Local manufacturers, Lorenzo said, did not want to produce beyond what could be absorbed by the market.

Japan and the United States remained the country's top sources of imported goods during the month, accounting for 20 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively, of the total import bill. Other major sources of imports were the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the People's Republic of China and the United Arab Emirates.

All Asia overhaul sought

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, has called for an overhaul of troubled All Asia Capital & Trust Corp., owned and controlled by the Tanco family.

In a letter to Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia R. Bautista and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, IFC reiterated that it was not prepared to support efforts to rehabilitate the investment company 'unless and until there is a significant change in its ownership and management.'

IFC said it has a number of concerns regarding All Asia's management, business dealings and corporate governance.

The World Bank unit is a creditor and minority shareholder of All Asia. In July last year, All Asia defaulted on its principal payment for a $25-million credit facility from the IFC and has made no further payment on the loan since then.

The All Asia management proposed a rehabilitation plan for the company but IFC did not like the plan saying that a detailed review indicated that the plan was based on "unrealistic assumptions and contained unsustainable projections."

At present, All Asia owes IFC $18.15 million covering principal, interest and related fees.

After the plan was set aside, All Asia was again drafting another rehabilitation plan to address its current concerns.

All Asia's license to operate as an investment house has lapsed and has not been renewed by the SEC.

SEC officials said that All Asia, together with East Asia Capital Corp., Corporate Investments of the Philippines Inc., Westmont Investment Corp. and Urbancorp Investments Inc. were among the investment houses whose operations suffered from massive pre-termination of investment placements.

MWSS, Maynilad pursuing talks

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System yesterday said negotiations with Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc. were still ongoing and that major issues were now being addressed.

Reacting to earlier reports that the talks were stalled, MWSS administrator Jose F. Mabanta clarified that it was the MWSS board that was in a deadlock as of Friday on the issue of whether to agree on the other proposals of Maynilad.

Mabanta was referring to new proposals submitted by Maynilad including new modes of financial relief, which were not part of the approved memorandum of cooperation. "We are still carefully considering them and their impact on the consumers," he said in the phone interview.

He, however, did not divulge the other proposals although sources said these included the application of automatic currency exchange rate mechanism on water tariffs.

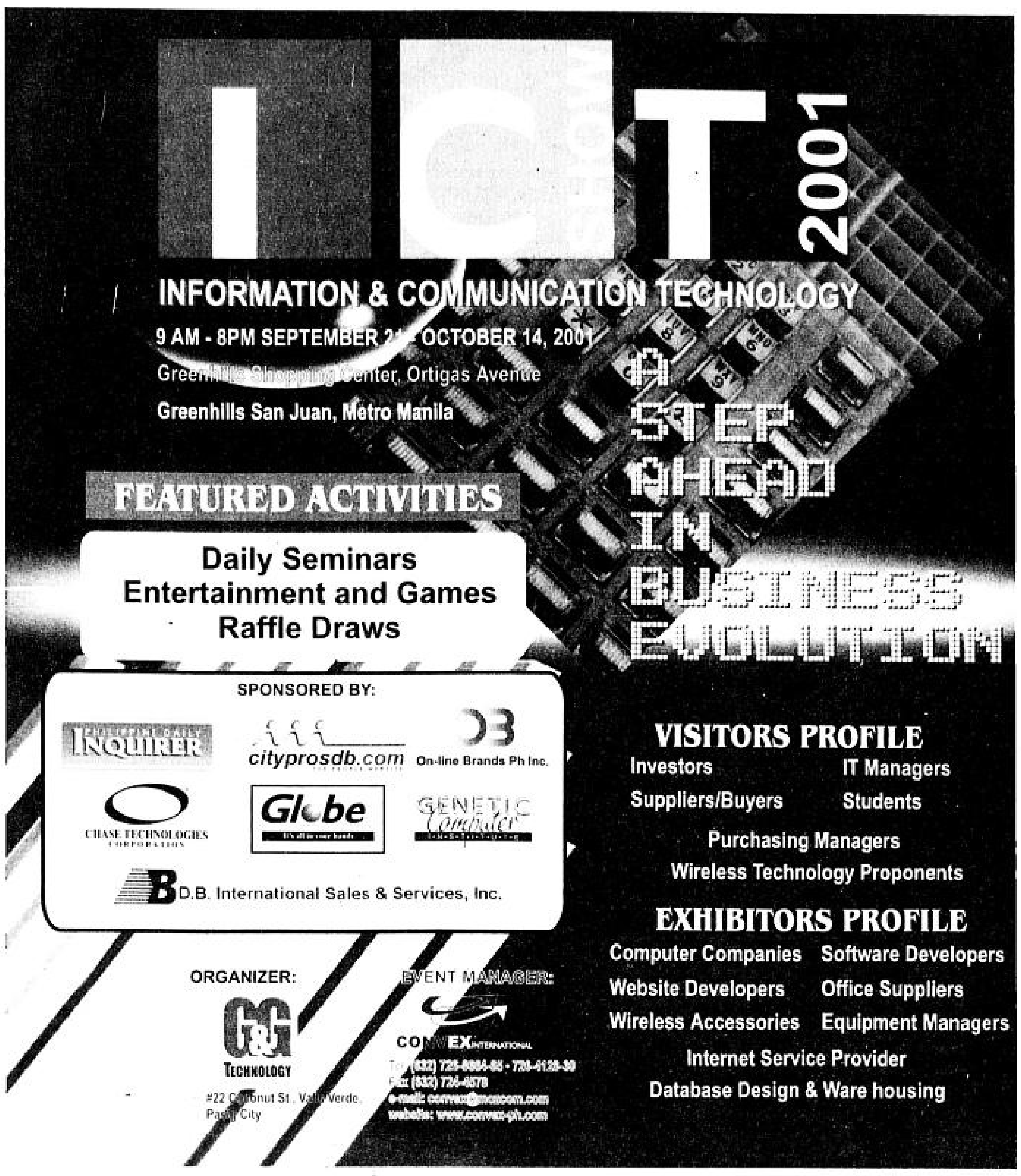
Mabanta said members of the MWSS board have yet to decide on whether to give in to the additional proposals of Maynilad.

Malacañang tasked MWSS to further review the contents of the MOC that was signed last June. The new proposals, if approved, will require the amendment of the MOC.

The memorandum of cooperation signed by MWSS and Maynilad last June allowed the latter to raise its monthly water charges by some P4.75 per cubic meter to recover foreign exchange losses incurred in the last three years amounting to P2.7 billion.

The original concession agreement provided that financial losses arising from events such as sudden fluctuations of the peso against the US dollar could be recovered gradually for the entire life of the contract, which is 23 years.

Maynilad, however, wants to recover its forex losses in the next two years.



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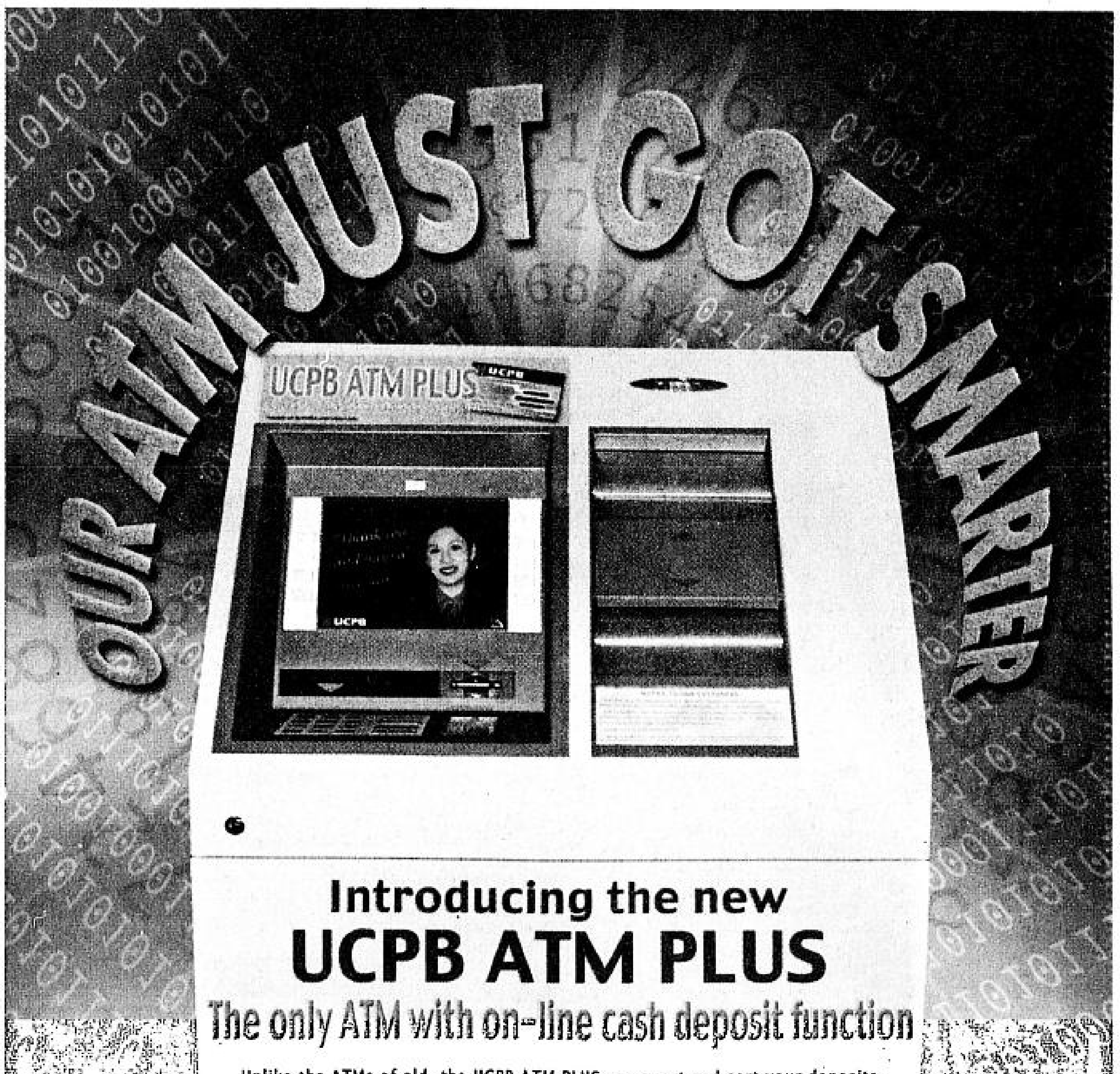

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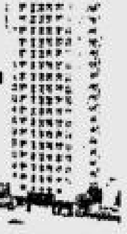

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Remedios A. Abis has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. No. 388; Page No. 78; Book No. 107; Series of 2001 of Notary Public H.B. Basco of the City of Manila
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late
• MANUEL U. LONTOC •
has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on March 30, 2001 under Doc. #10, Page #3, Book #1, Series 2001 before Notary Public Tristan R. Yu of Makati City
(PDI-Sept.6, 13 & 20, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Certificates of SCHEMA Konsult, Inc. Nos: 12 (125 sh), 24(100 sh), 48(44 sh), 69(102sh) and 95(371 sh) all in the name of Emmanuel A. Vargas

Notice is given to the public that stock certificate no. 228 of the Rural Bank of Pangil (Laguna), Inc. is declared lost.
(PDI-Sept.6, 13 & 20, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No. 743-8301 locals 1310, 1311; Telefax No. 711-9582

INVITATION FOR BID

September 18, 2001

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines thru the Department of Health (DOH) has received loan 3852-PH from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project (WHSMP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for the Construction of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) Unit in Surigao City. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA credits. Interested Filipino Contractors accredited from the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) category "C" and IACC classification Small "B" for Buildings are invited to participate.

Schedule of Activities:

	DATE	TIME
Submission of Letter of Intent	24-26 September 2001	
Issuance of Bid Documents	24 Sept 2001 to 05 Oct 2001	
Pre-Bid Conference	11 October 2001	10:00 AM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	18 October 2001	09:00 AM
Bid Opening	18 October 2001	10:00 AM

Post qualification requirements and bid documents shall be available on dates mentioned above upon presentation of a letter of intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) only at the Center for Health Development-CARAGA, Butuan City. For particulars, please call Ms. Bambi Mendoza and Mr. Romeo Guce of DOH-WHSMP at no. (632) 711-66-65.

Duly accomplished post qualification statement and price proposals in two (2) separate sealed envelopes shall be submitted at the Conference Room-Center for Health Development-CARAGA, Butuan City.

The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and awards the contract to any bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the DOH is the most advantageous to the government. DOH assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II**
(Assistant Secretary of Health)
Chairperson

(PDI--Sept. 20 & 23, 2001)

National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila 1018

GENCO-1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (PQ0900RCC-016)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contract Committee (RCC) is inviting Contractors to prequalify and to bid for the **SUPPLY OF MANPOWER SERVICES, SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED, UNSKILLED AND CLERICAL SUPPORT FOR THE OVERHAULING, REHABILITATION, MAINTENANCE AND OFFICE REQUIREMENT OF GENCO-1 OFFICES, PLANTS AND FACILITIES.**

Application for prequalification is open to all Filipino contracting firms with at least one (1) year minimum experience similar/related to the above requirement with valid DTI/SEC certificate. Applicant must be able to prove his Experience, Technical and Financial capacity to perform the works/services called for.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **September 17-28, 2001** at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), Third Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's DTI and/or SEC Certificate, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00)** per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

- Submission of Prequalification Documents - October 3, 2001
- Issuance of Bid Documents - October 17, 2001
- Pre-bid Conference - October 19, 2001
- Submission and Opening of Bids - October 26, 2001

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligations to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager, Professional Services Department
and Chairman, RCC

(PDI – Sept. 15, 20 & 24, 2001)

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EXPEDITO HAGUISAN RUBRICO

of Congress Village, North Caloocan City and Dumarao, Capiz

Died in the Grace of our Lord on 15 September 2001 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **MARIA O' GADONG**; children **NONOY & Dr. BETH ALISAGO, HEARTY**; grandchildren **MARIEL, MARI** and **ANDRE**; sister **ABILIA RUBRICO VDA. DE CALIMPONG**; nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on 20 September 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

FLORANTE ORAA RAYALA

April 4, 1935 – September 18, 2001

His wife **Monina**; children **Vivien** and **Koko Santiago**; **Monet** and **William Tongol**; grandchildren **Kara** and **Franco**; brothers, sisters and relatives request the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 23, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Aurora Baquisal Van de Poel

peacefully joined her Creator on September 17, 2001 at the age of 67.

Her bereaved daughter **Vajoy**; son-in-law **Sam**; grandchildren **Adrian** and **Aaron**; late husband **Paul** (†); brothers, sisters and in-laws **Ben** and **Rose** (†), **Lita**, **Jojo** and **Luz**, **Ching** (†) and **Ed**, **Toots** and **Fely**, **Charito** and **Alan** (†); nephews, nieces, other grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at #86 Pajo Street, Project 2, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2001 at 2:00 PM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord." **2 Corinthians 5:8**

"He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."
John 11:25-26

The Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students of

TRINITY COLLEGE OF QUEZON CITY

request prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of

COL. RIZALINO "Zaling" C. CABANBAN, Ret. (PAF)

Trustee, Former Secretary of the Board
and Former Officer-in-Charge

who joined his Creator on September 17, 2001.

His remains lie in state at PHIMRA Chapel, Moonwalk Phase 1, Parañaque, Metro Manila and will be brought to the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John, (National Cathedral of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines) Cathedral Heights, Quezon City on Friday, September 21, 2001. Interment is on Sunday, September 23, 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Quezon City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
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† **"I am the resurrection and the life..."**

FLORENCIO C. SUÑGA

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 15, 2001 at the age of 67.

- His beloved wife **Sylvia Fernandez**; and children **Gilda** and **Efren**, **Johnet** and **Dina**, **Ria** and **James**, **Joy** and **Jinky**, **Jaime** and **Gina**, **Chito** and **Rowena**; grandchildren **Paolo**, **Joanna**, **Joey**, **Dan-Dan**, **Joriel**, **Jamie**, **Joyce**, **Mary Grace**, **Jennifer**; sisters **Amelia S. Tioleco**, **Conchita S. David**, **Ming**, **Sr. M. Frances Therese, RGS**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

Interment on Saturday, September 22, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina will follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass (LMC, Guadalupe).

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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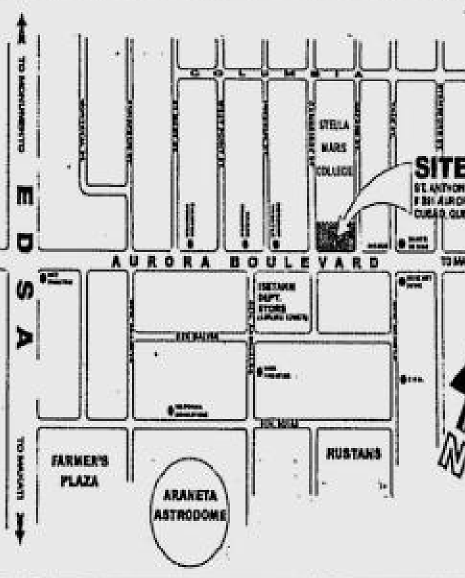

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Fax: (82) 2264885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Notice is hereby given to all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A General Engineering and General Building for the proposed construction of the following projects, to wit:

1. R.C. Ground Reservoir - 1,500 cu.m. at Sitio Mahayahay Barangay Tugbok, this city.
   APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT - Php 5,011,287.48
2. R.C. Ground Reservoir - 680 cu.m., Cyclone Fence, Site Grading Development and Drainage System at Barangay Bangkas Heights, Toril District, this city.
   APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT - Php 2,557,822.14

(Above projects are under our Phase 3 Stage 1 Project)

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting October 1 to 5, 2001 during business hours.

Deadline of submission of Pre-C/Eligibility Forms	October 12, 2001
Issuance of Plans	October 19 - November 6, 2001
Pre-bid Conference	November 8, 2001, 3 p.m. DCWD Board Room
Opening of Bids	November 15, 2001, 3 p.m. DCWD Board Room

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
DCWD BAC-B Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 14, 17 & 20, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5 J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No. 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos. 221-62-18 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax (82) 2264885

(SECOND)
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All interested contractors with category PCAB, D and above, and IAC Special Classification or Well Drilling or Water Supply are invited to participate in the bidding for the **EXPLORATORY/WELL DRILLING OF THREE (3) PRODUCTION WELLS**, using Rotary Method, here in Davao City.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of each well, and its location are as follows:

1) Alambre, Lubogan Well	Php 3,527,956.96
2) New Loon, Mintal Well	Php 3,046,942.78
3) Malagos Well (near DCWD Reservoir)	Php 3,553,244.42

PRE-C eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **October 1 to 5, 2001** during business hours. Deadline for the submission of Pre-C documents will be on or before **October 12, 2001**. Issuance of plans will be from **October 19** to **November 6, 2001**. Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on **November 9, 2001**. Opening of bids will be on **November 16, 2001**, 3 p.m. at the DCWD Board Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
DCWD BAC-B Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 14, 17 & 20, 2001)

Asian markets mixed pending developments in Afghanistan

HONG KONG—Share prices in Asia were mixed early Wednesday, as investors watched for developments in Afghanistan. Taiwan's key index slipped, however, as markets that were closed earlier in the week by a typhoon reopened.

Taiwan shares tumbled about 2.8 percent in early trading to their lowest level in eight years but later recovered ground. By midday, the Weighted Price Index of the Taiwan Stock Exchange had lost 74.40 points, or 1.97 percent, to 3,700.22 points.

The government estimated that total damage from Typhoon Nari, which caused at least 66 deaths and closed down Taiwan's capital Taipei on Monday and Tuesday, could be as high as T$12 billion ($348 million)—another blow to the ailing economy.

Elsewhere, there were signs that markets were following Wall Street's lead and settling down after a week of volatile trading following the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States. Overnight, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 17.30 points, or less than 0.2 percent, to 8,903.40 on Tuesday.

"People are just waiting for news to come out," said Michael Liang, an analyst at Vickers Ballas in Hong Kong.

Asian markets were watching for developments in the US effort to draw together a diverse anti-terrorism coalition and for Afghanistan's reaction to Washington's demands for extradition of Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the attacks.

Cheered by the lower-than-expected decline in New York, shares in Tokyo advanced early Wednesday. Sentiment was also helped by an overnight interest-rate cut by Japan's central bank, part of a global effort led by the Federal Reserve to calm jittery investors.

Lower interest rates tend to boost stock trading because the cost of borrowing becomes cheaper.

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average soared 359.58 points, or 3.71 percent, to 10,039.46 by early afternoon. On Tuesday, the average closed up 175.47 points, or 1.85 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index of blue chips surged 138.49 points, or 1.49 percent, to 9,446.39. Given the uncertainty over US retaliation for the terror attacks, investors were buying telecoms stocks and shying away from more vulnerable trading, property and airline shares, said Liang of Vickers Ballas.

"It's not a Hong Kong thing, it's a global thing," Liang said.

"Many people now view a mobile phone as a necessity, not a luxury."

In Seoul, the Korea Composite Stock Price Index gained 0.93 percent in mixed trading. Investors shrugged off the round of rate cuts and instead focused on reports of an announcement by the Taliban that Afghanistan should prepare for a holy war, traders said.

Elsewhere in Asia, trading was mixed.

European stocks finished lower Tuesday despite the interest rate cuts, but a late rally sparked by Wall Street's performance cut the losses.

The FTSE 100 index of British blue chips closed down 1.02 percent, the CAC 40 index of leading French shares finished down 1.13 percent and the Xetra DAX index on Germany's Deutsche Boerse fell 0.94 percent.

All indicators had initially dropped more than 2 percent.

Oil and gold both retreated, and the dollar was mostly lower against other major currencies. *AP*

BOEING Co., the world's biggest jet maker, will lay off 30,000 workers as slumping airlines slash flight schedules and aircraft orders following the attacks on the US last week. REUTERS

Boeing to layoff 30,000 workers

SEATTLE—Boeing Co. plans to lay off as many as 30,000 commercial airplane workers by the end of next year as a result of an expected slowdown in orders caused by last week's terrorist attacks, the company said.

"We profoundly regret that these actions will impact the lives of so many of our highly valued employees," Alan Mulally, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said in a statement late Tuesday.

"However, it is critical that we take these necessary steps now to size the Commercial Airplanes business to support the difficult and uncertain environment faced by our airline customers," he said.

Roughly 93,000 people work for Boeing's commercial airline sector, much of which is centered around the company's former headquarters in Seattle.

"We're all very distressed by it," Washington state Gov. Gary Locke said. "The repercussions of last week's terrorist activities are having far-reaching impacts, first to all the national airlines. They're laying off people, and they're not even sure they can take delivery of Boeing airplanes."

Locke said news of the Boeing layoffs illustrates how quickly the federal government must move to help the airline industry.

The White House and Congress are considering a federal aid package for the airline industry to help them recover from last week's attacks.

The industry has asked for $24 billion. The House floated a $15-billion relief plan last Friday that could include $2.5 billion in immediate grants and $12.5 billion in loans and credits.

Though the White House and congressional leaders suggested a multibillion-dollar package was on the way, they weren't offering a final dollar figure or timetable for debate. *AP*

Tough months ahead for US after attacks

WASHINGTON—Car sales, home sales, tourism, business travel and other major parts of the US economy suddenly look very vulnerable, and many economists no longer doubt that the country will suffer a recession this year.

"The horror of the events of last week literally stopped the economy in its tracks," said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. in New York. "There is no question that this terrorist event will kick us over into a recession."

But Jones and other analysts who believe the terror attacks will trigger a full-blown recession also predict the economy will come roaring back next year, helped by the extra billions that will be spent on reconstruction and security.

Already, after only a week, losses to the nation's airlines have been put at $1 billion. The industry is seeking $24 billion from Congress to help it cope.

The disruption in travel has been felt at many tourist destinations, and the tourism industry is bracing for even bigger losses, especially at faraway destinations such as Hawaii.

Joel Prakken, chief economist at Macroeconomic Forecasters in St. Louis, said the hit to the economy in property damage and lost lives from last week's suicide hijackings will dwarf such recent natural disasters as Hurricane Andrew in 1992, which killed 61 people and resulted in $27 billion in property damage.

Analysts said losses among airlines and the insurance industry will be magnified throughout the economy as people cut back on spending, especially for big-ticket items such as homes and autos.

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic activity in the $10-trillion US economy, has been all that kept the country out of a downturn for the past year.

Paul Taylor, chief economist for the National Automobile Dealers Association, said he was cutting his sales estimates for the rest of this year by 100,000 vehicles.

Even before the destruction at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, consumers had grown more wary, reflecting a sharp jump in unemployment. The jobless rate surged in August to 4.9 percent.

Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan has warned since January that the biggest threat of an outright recession would come if consumers became so spooked about rising unemployment that they cut back on spending.

Now worries about job losses are being intensified by the terrorist attack and the resulting plunge in stock values, which translates into lower spending by people worried about shrinking investment portfolios.

Because of all these factors, many economists believe the current July-September quarter will see the gross domestic product drop as much as one percent. That would follow a tiny 0.2-percent rise in GDP in the April-June quarter. *AP*

Europe readies for economic uncertainties

PARIS—European governments and businesses were battening down Tuesday against economic turmoil unleashed by the terrorist attacks in the US, despite leaders' public reassurances that the damage was not a disaster.

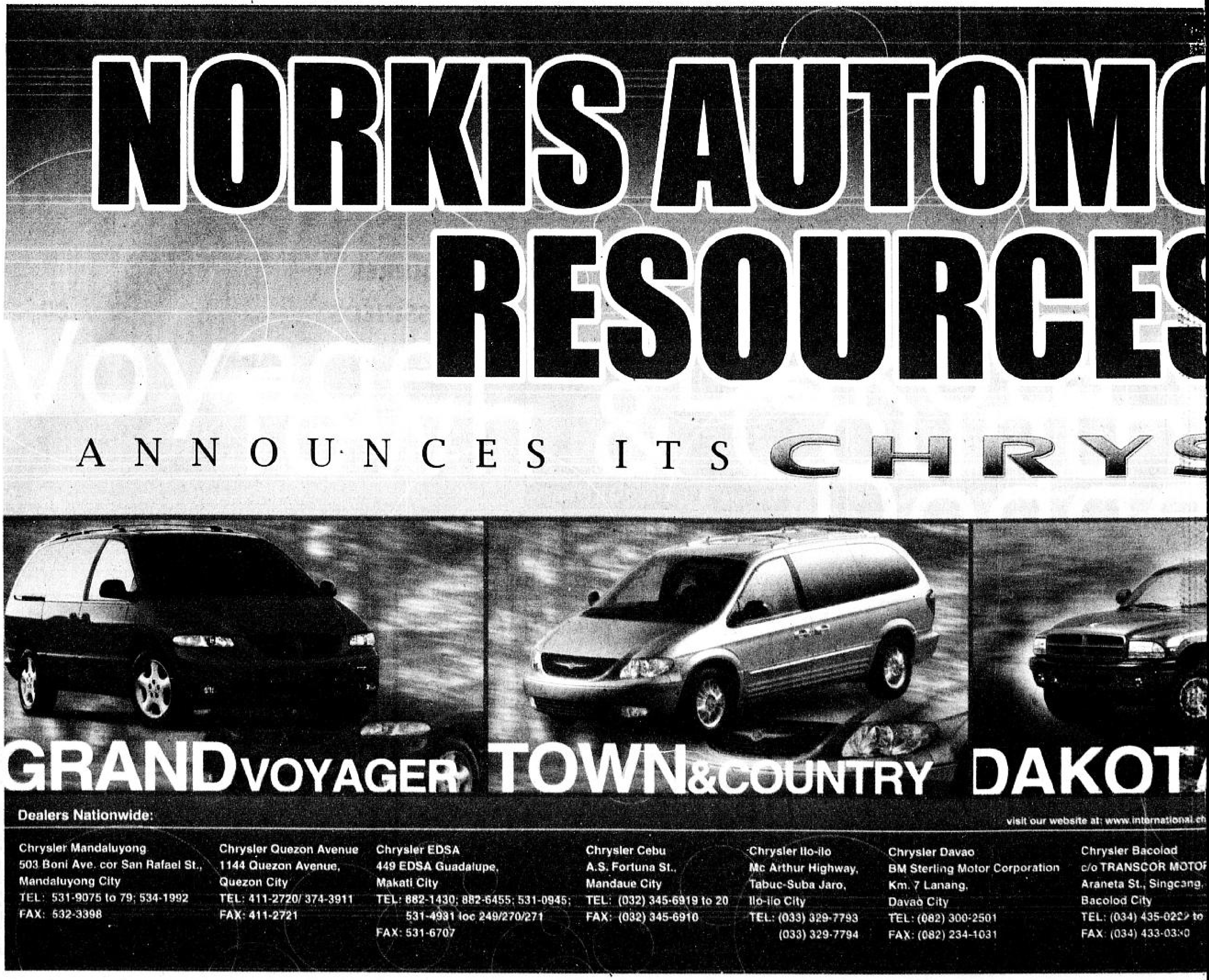
The governments of France, Italy and Finland were adjusting their economic outlooks as the world marked a week's distance from the horrific assault on New York and Washington.

Airlines, on the frontline of the terrorists' kamikaze attacks, were scrambling to survive a rough ride, cutting capacity and jobs.

As the United States assesses the financial and economic cost of the attacks and pursues a war against terrorism, responses in Europe indicate a gap between soothing public statements and practical actions.

In France, Europe's second-largest economy, the French finance minister and the governor of the central bank said the global economy had overcome the risk of crisis caused by the attacks in the United States.

French Economy and Finance Minister Laurent Fabius told a government meeting that financial risks from the attacks had been "fully mastered." *AFP*



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China's WTO entry escalates pressure on Asia

SINGAPORE—As the global community welcomes China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), regional policymakers are nervously assessing how to cope with the Asian giant's irreversible economic ascendency.

China's WTO membership, now just a formality, is expected to escalate pressure on Asian countries to strengthen their competitiveness against the might of the Chinese industrial engine, regional officials and analysts said.

"Just as Japan was the 'world's workshop' after the Second World War, China is becoming the 'factory of the world' in the 21st century," Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told a business conference Wednesday.

"China's entry into the WTO will hasten its integration into the world economy, increasing the pressure both on other countries and also on China's own long-protected and inefficient state owned enterprises," he added.

In particular, the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), already reeling from a global downturn, faces the arduous task of working together more closely than ever before, said Bob Broadfoot, managing director of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC).

"Asean needs to cooperate more regionally to lower tariffs and create a more unified market if it is to be seen as a credible alternative to the 1.2-billion (people) market of China," Hong Kong-based Broadfoot told AFP.

Asean, home to 500 million people, has come under fierce criticism, particularly for not doing enough in the aftermath of the 1997-1998 regional crisis to closer integrate their economies.

Asean's members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

All are already committed to the Asean Free Trade Area, or Afta, that will see the group's more developed members reduce tariffs on most goods traded within the region to between zero and 5 percent by 2003. *AFP*

Opec will not lower price range

VIENNA—Opec will compensate for any shortage of oil on the world market, but will not lower its target price range of $22-$28 a barrel, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Adel Al-Sabeeh said in a statement received here on Tuesday.

The minister denied suggestions that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was ready to accept a new price range of $20-$22 for its basket of seven crude oils to support the US economy after the terrorist attacks there last week.

Al-Sabeeh said in a statement that Kuwait would adhere completely to an earlier decision by the organization to ensure the stability of prices on the international oil markets by adjusting oil supplies in order to hold prices in the current range.

He said: "Should the case arise, we will compensate for any eventual shortage of oil supplies in coordination with member states."

Opec's next meeting is to be held at the organization's headquarters in Vienna on Sept. 26. Analysts say that the cartel will take a new decision about production quotas during the meeting.

In an early edition of Wednesday's Austrian daily Kurier, Opec general secretary Ali Rodriguez also provided the same price range of $22-$28 per barrel.

"We want to keep the price of a barrel between $22 and $28," Rodriguez said.

"But on top of uncertainty about the extent and consequences of the US' retaliation (to the Sept. 11 attacks) we have another risk factor: of a possible worldwide recession. If that came, we would have to react." *AFP*

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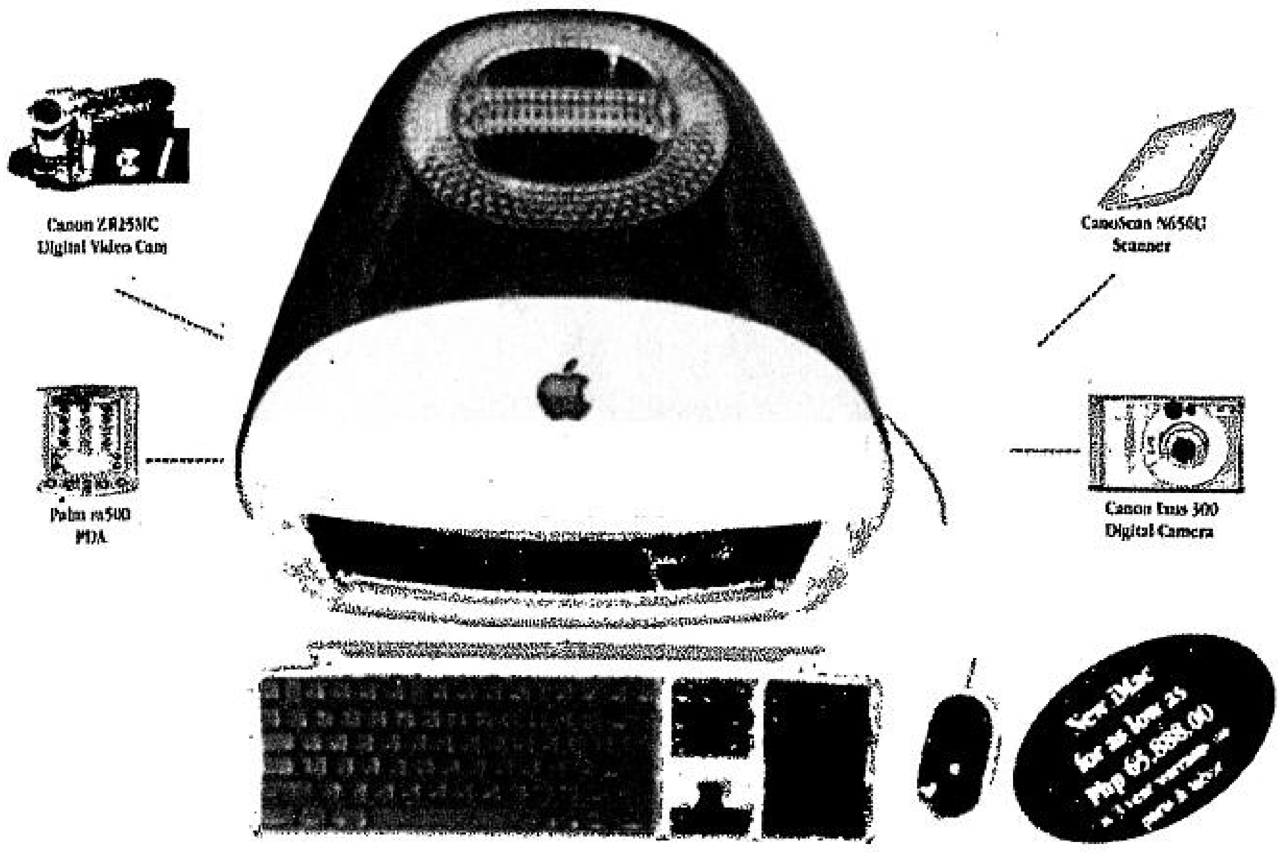

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Magsaysay elected PCTA vice chair

FRANCISCO "Paco" Magsaysay, chief executive officer of RMJ Development Corp. and Asian Vision Cable Holdings Inc. (Avchi), is the newly elected vice chair of the Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA).

Paco shares his optimism in the potential growth and development of the cable television industry and believes that while competition is getting stronger with the merger of two cable giants, cable business is still an attractive long term investment opportunity for any local and foreign investor.

According to Paco--the only son of Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr.--his plans for Avchi for the next five years are to further expand its majority owned or managed systems; to acquire majority ownership in some of the minority held systems; to sell some of its minority holdings to existing majority shareholders and to open new systems.

Paco had lived in the United States for 15 years and earned a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, major in Marketing at the St. Thomas University in Houston, Texas. He then decided to visit the Philippines. A sudden twist in Paco's life reverberated with heavy responsibilities when he had to earn a living through the cable business which his father entrusted to him.

At present, Avchi and PCTA's collective goal is to keep thinking of new ideas in programming and technical know-how to make the industry more exciting and challenging inspite of the economic slump. Ultimately, however, it is the subscriber and the government who will truly reap the benefits of an orderly and rational growth and development of a national cable television infrastructure.

In the cable industry where Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. is known to be the "Father of Cable Television", can the son be far behind?

MYSAP.COM TO REENGINEER MANILA WATER

Manila Water Corporation recently acquired mySAP.com in a bid to reengineer business processes and improve operational efficiency within the utilities company. Shown are (from left) SAP Philippines sector director Antonio Javier, Jr., SAP Philippines and marketing and alliance manager Marivic Gamo, SAP Philippines managing director Ian Black, Manila Water chief information officer Geodino Carpio, SAP Philippines sector manager Earl Santos and Manila Water IT manager for user support and operations Louie Vasquez.

These Jollibee french fries are for listening

INTRODUCING Jollibee Audio Fries, an innovative AM/FM radio shaped like Jollibee's appetizing french fries. Now, you can listen to your favorite tunes on the radio while enjoying your favorite Jollibee meal.

Borne out of Jollibee's desire to continually come up with exciting incentives and premium items for its consumers, this unique and portable radio is the perfect gift for kids, friends or officemates. It can also provide great musical accompaniment to meals with the family and makes a nice display piece inside your homes. Its clever design makes use of its "fries" as levers to change radio stations and adjust the volume.

The Jollibee Audio Fries are available at all of Jollibee's more than 400 stores nationwide for only P190, with a minimum food purchase of P75. Hurry to the nearest Jollibee outlet and grab one now.

A DAY OF SWITCHES, SWINGS AND MORE

A golf tournament and product launching greeted participants of the 2nd BTcino Golf Trophy recently at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. The tourney is an annual event organized by Legrand Philippines Inc., a subsidiary of Legrand Group from France, leader in low-voltage electrical fittings and wiring accessories. Dubbed 'Switches N' Swings', it featured the launching of the New Idrobox, BTcino's latest range of weatherproof housings for wiring devices. Shown are the winners of tournament, with Angela Velez (center). From left are Rolly Bonifacio, Class C champion; Felino Coloma, Class C runner-up; Edwin Gumila, Class A champion; Elmer Cabrera, Class B champion; Lyzel Sta. Maria, Class B runner-up and Manuel Bernabe, Class A runner-up.

PBS members invited to AGM

THE Philippine British Society Inc. (PBS) will hold its annual general membership meeting today, Sept. 20, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. His excellency, Alan Collins, Her Majesty's ambassador to the Philippines and Philippine Army commanding general Jaime delos Santos, are among those who will be invited as guests.

PBS president Francis C. Neri said that all members in good standing will be allowed to vote and will be notified by mail or fax. Members in good standing are those who have regularly paid their annual membership dues and are still in the active members roster.

Under the stewardship of Neri and his vice persident, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul Ian Sargeant, the Philippine British Society elicited Presidential Proclamation 381 which declared Dec. 7, 2000 and every year thereafter as Philippine British Friendship Day.

Neri enjoined all PBS members to call or fax their updated addresses and phone numbers to the offices of the Society at telefax no. 895-2950 or send all communications to the Philippine British Society Inc., Neri Townhouses and Condominium, 4423 Montojo Street, Bo. Tejeros, Makati City.

LAKBAY POTEN-CEE WINNER

Vivian Sullera of Caloocan City won the grand prize in the recently concluded Lakbay Potencee Raffle Promo--a trip for two to Hong Kong with $200 pocket money. Shown awarding the travel certificate is Manuel J. Salazar, president and chief operating officer of Pascual Laboratories, Inc. Ascorbic Acid Poten-Cee, the Potent Vitamin C endorsed by Aga Muhlach, is fast becoming the number 1 vitamin C in the market today.

PLDT PRESENTATION FOR FCIE

Telecoms leader PLDT recently conducted a communications technology update product presentation for tenants of First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE). The presentation is part of the ongoing project of the PLDT Business Solutions group introduced in July 2000 to update its corporate customers on the company's new product offerings utilizing the latest communications technology. Shown are PLDT personnel and participants from the various multinational companies and other business establishments in FCIE, Barangay Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Bits & Clips

Rock & Roll at MSC

THE Makati (Sports) Club will hold a third of its series of Special Bar Nights titled "Rock & Roll Night" on Friday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. at the Club's Main Bar. Members, dependents and guests are invited to attend a night of fun and reminiscing as guest performers render a vast repertoire of popular Rock & Roll songs that have hit the charts through the decades. For more information call Joyce or Joey at 817-8731 to 39.

Storytelling Hour at Museo Pambata

MUSEO Pambata invites all kids and kids-at-heart to the weekly PBBY Storytelling Hour every Friday from 10-11 a.m. Featured storytellers are Citadel Felices (Sept. 21), and Cindy Cruz-Cabrera (Sept. 28). School groups and children's literature lovers will surely enjoy this special treat. For more inquiries, call Museo Pambata (located at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila) at 523-1798.

Mega exhibit at WTC

THE World Trade Center is the site of the biggest ongoing technology exhibitions in the country composed of three major events, namely, Packaging Philippines 2001, Phil Print 2001 and Plastics Philippines 2001. This 3-in-1 mega event will run until Sept. 22 and showcases over 320 exhibitors from 20 countries. The show occupies over 5,000 sqm of exhibition space and a reported display of over 400 machines. Last year, the show attracted a combined 12,000 buyers from all over the country which generated sales of over P100 million. The organizer, IIR Exhibitions Phils. Inc. can be contacted through Rowena Nuguid at 750-8588/ 887-1304; fax 750-8585 and e-mail wengiirxp@skyinet.net.

Free health seminar

A VISITING spiritual teacher and medical expert is in Manila to conduct a free seminar in maintaining excellent health and well-being, to be held at the ballroom of the Mondragon House along Gil Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City today, Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Nirmala Kajaria, director of the Brahma Kumaris Meditation Centers in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region, is in Manila to conduct a special talk in maintaining good health as a natural state, and to meet with Filipino members of the Brahma Kumaris group. Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, UP College of Medicine professor and former Health Department secretary, joins the health seminar. For seat reservations and registration call 890-7960, 922-9231.

Sunday, June 24, 2001
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CISCO GM KEYNOTE FOR IETI

Cisco Systems Philippines country manager Manuel Rivera delivers his message to the graduates during the recent graduation rites of the International Electronics and Technical Institute Inc. (IETI) held recently at the Philippine International Convention Center. IETI is a member of the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP), a four-semester course that teaches students to design, build, and maintain computer networks. The program prepares students for the 21st Century workplace while serving as a valuable model for e-learning.

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RAINFOREST, HEN LIN SIGN AGREEMENT

Convoy Marketing Corp., distributor of RainForest Natural Mineral Water, recently signed an agreement with M&H Foods Corp., the company behind Hen Lin Dimsum and Dine-in outlets to exclusively supply all of Hen Lin's bottled water requirements. Being the only water brand produced in an ISO 9002 certified plant, RainForest Natural Mineral Water was chosen by Hen Lin to complement its products and service quality standards in the food-chain industry. Shown during the contract signing (seated, from left) is Convoy Marketing president Benny Aw with M&H Foods operations manager Enrique Manas, M&H Foods sales operations manager Celina Manas, Convoy national sales manager Ervin Capisanan and Convoy marketing manager Joselito Bermudez. Shown standing, from left, is M&H food chief area supervisor Vince Da Silva with Convoy district sales supervisor Banjo Patron.

DENTISTA INC. 4TH BRANCH AT SHANGRI-LA

The grand opening of Dentista Inc. at Shangrila Plaza was attended by (from left) Mike Enriquez, president of RGMA Networks Inc. and 'Saksi' anchor; Emily Vasquez, resident manager of Ridge Resort and Convention Center; Lani Lobangco-Santos, former actress and now a full-time mom; Rachel Lobangco, actress; and Justice Ricardo Francisco, former Supreme Court Justice.

Vegetarian cooking demo

MOTHER Sachi Vegetarian Restaurant will present a vegetarian cooking demonstration at the Annual Charity Bazaar at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Social Hall on Saturday, Sept. 22. Ramona Morato, general manager, will explain the advantages of being a vegetarian and will lecture on the alternatives to eating meat. Also available on bargain prices at the bazaar are wines and delicatessen, arts and crafts, table tops and linens, houseware and clothes. Bottles of wine will be given to lucky shoppers during the hourly bazaar. The bazaar is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879, 820-1570 or page 15816328592.

'Cyber Home' exhibit

LG Electronics, a world leader in digital innovation, is giving the public a rare chance to get a glimpse of the future with "Cyber Home," an exhibit of some of the most technologically advanced electronics products and home appliances. The display includes the Flatron Plasma, the Internet Digital DIOS Refrigerator and the Internet Turbo Drum Washer. "Cyber Home" is on display at the Festival Mall in Alabang from Sept. 9 to 22, and will be at the Glorietta Activity Center on Sept. 24 to 30.

SB RESCO, TOMEN FOR HYDRO HYBRID PROJECT

Smith Bell Renewable Energy Services Corp., (SB-Resco) and Tomen Corp. recently completed a pre-feasibility study for Wind Power Project at Negros Occidental province. Shown (from left) are Jojo Baile (branch manager for Tomen Corp. Manila) Kenji Toyoda (Tomen representative from Japan), Ruth Yu-Owen (vice president/COO for SB-Resco) and Susan Paunil-dela Vega as witness for SB-Resco. In its related energy project, Smith Bell Resco will build a hydro plant in Zamboanga Del Norte.

FORD SPORTRAC

Pleasingly plump and plush, for a price

By Raymond B. Tribdino
and Tessa R. Salazar

WE wrote about Ford's excellent Ranger Trekker only two issues ago. It was, in our opinion, one of the best turbocharged diesel pickups around. In fact, for its price and size it is the top runner in the performance books. Sadly it fails to ignite the spirits of pickup buyers most of whom pay more attention to looks rather than overall performance.

This week we look at a chunkier member of Ford's pickup line, the Explorer Sport Trac. It has been a favorite vehicle here in the INQUIRER for many reasons—mainly because it exacts, quite literally, a huge amount of presence wherever it goes.

So if you are of the opinion that the Ranger looks too much like any other ordinary pickup, take a good look at Sportrac and see what to expect from other Fords in the next few months.

Chunky but bold

Raymond: Look at the Sportrac and you'll see what Ford has been up to in their design department. It is clearly a path toward boldness much like its new passenger cars like the Ka, Focus and Mondeo.

Tessa: For female drivers in the metropolis who kept complaining that they wanted the plump and intimidating appeal of the behemoth F-150 look for their city driving but would prefer a slimmer version for the bumper-to-bumper traffic, I guess this is the response: the Sportrac. The boldness lies not only on its "mini-chunky" look, I guess, but what lies on top of it—the sun roof—which I really find cool.

Raymond: The chunky look of the Sportrac is definitely appealing. It is based on the new Explorer sport-utility. Remove the roof and the C and D pillars of an Explorer and you'll get the Sportrac. Though the styling is bold, it is on the plump side, too. I can't help but compare it to the F-series pickups, which are real brutes. Comparatively, the Sportrac's looks has been softened and made less intimidating.

Tessa: That's why I'm saying it was given a shot of the softer look but the intimidating appeal is still there, plus the designer added more of the sporty appeal thingie to make it look like not just a more female pickup but for sporty male drivers.

Pickup owner 1: I like how my Nissan Frontier looks; definitely looks better than the Sportrac. I also like the economy of the diesel engine and the ease of the automatic transmission. It also surges with power. But if I had the money to burn, I wouldn't mind getting a Sportrac.

Plush performance

Raymond: Under the hood throbs a 4.0-liter V6 engine producing a gas-guzzling performance. No 0 to 100 pedal to the metal tests here. All I can say is that acceleration is sufficient enough to overtake a train of beer-laden lorries up the Cabuyao exit. It's coupled to an excellently geared automatic with a 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive selector. Though the gearing spreads the power around well, don't expect blistering performance from this pickup, mainly designed for comfort.

Tessa: It's the "pino" type of smooth cruising, which I believe you do not like, but which to me is okay. The suspension is still "wallowy" (imagine a hippo wading nostril-deep in a calm river), there is still the presence of the soft ride that Americans love. The horn is harder to push. But what was impressed upon me is the strong feel from behind after every steering wheel manipulation.

Pickup owner 2: It is strange how it accelerates slowly. Well, at least you don't feel it accelerates at all until you look at the speedometer. I wish I could say the same for my Fuego 4x2.

Not a serious off-roader

Raymond: Though the Sportrac will ford (pun unintended) rivers, mounds and similar obstacles, it will be difficult to cross the Mt. Pinatubo divide. Its sheer weight will make it fodder for muddy crossings and even in the 4-wheel drive "L" (low) mode, you still get little traction from the 70 series tires.

Pickup owner 3: But the ride is amazing off road. My Hi-Lux throws me around. See that stretch? By the time I get around it, I am literally tossed up like a salad. But not with the Sportrac. The ride is so good. You rarely feel the bumps and dips, unless they were really monstrous ones.

Tessa: As I said the drive and ride feels just like its behemoth big brothers, "wallowy," the ride is soft even in the rough.

Raymond: Feels a bit wobbly to me. Well, it really isn't any different from the soft, floaty ride of the Expedition or the F-150. Could it be the wheelbase? Doesn't feel as "on-spot" as the F-150. Or even the Ranger Trekker.

Vague handling

Raymond: I expected a lot more from a pickup costing over P1.6 million but the driving dynamics are just average. Steering is vague, despite the use of a speed sensor; the brake pedal feels dead and the throttle is on the soggy side. But that does not mean it does not brake with authority or accelerate with aplomb. There is just so little driver feedback, it bothers me.

Pickup owner 4: My Ranger Trekker seems to be built better. It feels so nicely bolted together. The steering is crispier, the engine perkier, powertrain more responsive, brakes surefooted. I wouldn't exchange it for a Sportrac, especially because the fuel bills are lower with the Trekker.

Tessa: The brakes are too soft for comfort.

Raymond: But I do like fiddling with the sunroof. And the ergonomics is near perfect. Cabin ambience is Peninsula and that power back window, perfect for flying kites in those long trips.

Filled to the brim

Raymond: I am particularly happy with all those little amenities—power sockets, child seat anchors, the cargo bed with that folding extender whatchmacallit, warning lights and gauges for almost everything—nice little touches that make driving it just that pleasurable. And safe.

Tessa: It's called a cargo cage, Raymond.

Raymond: Hey did you know that the cargo bed is made of some high-tech composite material? And that excellent audio system with headphone jacks. Superb sound, don't you agree?

Tessa: Yup. I just hope the driver doesn't use the headphones. His ears need to be on the road.

Ford's for-the-upper-crust Explorer Sportrac gets a 7 out of 10 total points. We can't put our fingers on it but most testers seem unaffected by its looks and are unimpressed by its power train. On the high side though are comfort, technology and overall performance, including, amazingly, fuel economy which ranks in at 5 km per liter city driving and nearly 8 km per liter on the highway.

Thanks to Peddie Ramos, Ding Somoza, Jay Bautista and Fred Gonzalo; pickup owners 1 to 4, respectively. We gave them a ride on the Sportrac and compared notes with them. Naturally everyone claimed they didn't like to own the Sportrac, even if they were noticeably gloating over it the day we met for the test ride.

Director Wycoco, sock it to them!

FULL TANK
Al S. Mendoza

I APPLAUD the National Bureau of Investigation in its recent action to raid a shop near Banawe Street in Quezon City suspected of selling fake car parts. More of that, please.

Really, it's about time the NBI acted with dispatch on those car parts shops at Banawe. Many shops there are known havens of stolen goods that are passed off as brand-new. Whatever happened to the anti-fencing law?

* * *

Many of my friends have been victims of robberies at Banawe and its environs. Many were done in broad daylight yet.

One night not too long ago, on my way home to Quezon City from Manila, I fell prey to thieves who operate in lightning-quick manner. While I was waiting for the green light to flash, two men walked toward my direction and, in seconds, removed the side mirrors of my Toyota Revo. They didn't run afterward; they just walked away casually as though they had done nothing wrong. Very business-like.

***"Madalas mangyari iyan dito,* Sir," said a lady sidewalk vendor. *"Maya-maya lang, babalik ang mga iyon at gagawin muli nila ang ginawa sa inyo. Ipinagbibili ng mura sa mga shops diyan. Mga addict kasi,* Sir."**

* * *

I thought of going to the police.

"*Wala ring mangyayari*, Sir," said the sidewalk vendor. "*Marami diyan kakampi nila.*"

Then I thought of a scene from the movie "The Godfather" that portrayed a crime victim telling his ordeal to Robert de Niro. When De Niro learned that the victim had reported the matter to the police, he told the poor fellow: "Why did you go to the police?"

When the green light finally flashed, I drove on. As though, nothing happened.

So, get on with your act NBI! Sock it to them, *Pareng* Wayks! The dutiful tax-paying motorists are all behind you.

* * *

I heard that the government has earmarked millions of pesos to pave the roads of the metropolis, including interior streets.

Applause, please. If only for the thought that repairs are forthcoming.

My heart weeps each time I see our roads in an utter state of disrepair, especially with the onset of the rainy season. Why our roads easily get destroyed has been a question that hasn't been answered quite properly by the authorities.

Inferior quality? Improper supervision of the leaders assigned to the projects? Or is it improper use of funds to finance the road construction?

I have not stopped wondering also why a small hole on the road is left unattended, why authorities allow it to grow into a basin-like crater before it gets repaired. And sometimes, when it is repaired at all, it's done in a slapstick manner. At times, after one slight drizzle, the hole is reopened.

* * *

I am saddened by the accident that hit Alex Zanardi, the Italian CART racing expert. In a car crash in Germany on Sunday, Zanardi lost both his legs. How painful, indeed, for that abruptly ended his driving career.

Through Honda's Arnel Doria, I met Zanardi in 1996 in Detroit during a CART race at the Michigan International Speedway. I found him to be an amiable person, typically Italian in his friendly manners. Wide grin, a warm handshake and all.

It was a miracle that he survived the crash, which virtually reduced his car to bits and pieces after it collided with another car at the almost break-neck speed of 150 mph.

God, have mercy on him.

* * *

Still on car racing, Mika Hakkinen, the 1998 and 1999 Formula One champion, has announced he was taking a break from the world's No. 1 motor sport.

"I'm tired, you are under pressure constantly in Formula One," he said. "That's the reason I need a break. It was the right decision to take."

Hakkinen, the Flying Finn, is leaving McLaren-Mercedes after nine years, 160 races, 26 pole positions and 19 Grand Prix wins. Winning just one GP this season, the 32-year-old Hakkinen has two races left this season—Indianapolis and Japan.

"I need the break to recharge my batteries and enjoy more time with my wife, Erja, and my son, Hugo," said Hakkinen.

Let's wish him well in his new mission. To be with one's loved ones is the ultimate in life for anyone who gives priority to family.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Avoid being too confident while driving at night. Unseen holes can disable your car.

GM holds Subaru Forester test-drives

GENERAL Motors Automobiles Philippines, the local subsidiary of General Motors Corp. is holding a series of Subaru Forester test-drives around Metro Manila to let the public experience the superior driving performance of the all-wheel-drive Subaru Forester.

Every Saturday, a series of test drives will take place in selected mall parking lots to allow the public, whether driving enthusiasts or not, to test-drive the Subaru Forester over log hurdles and shampoo-covered road surfaces. Apart from this, those who have brought their own cars will be treated to a free car wash courtesy of models. As cosponsors, Haagen Daaz and Mild 7 will also be giving away product samples to the public.

Last Saturday, the test-drives took place at the Rockwell Powerplant Mall in Makati City. Other venues, starting 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., are Festival Mall, Muntinlupa City, Sept. 22; and Eastwood City, Pasig City, Sept. 29.

The AWD Subaru Forester made its debut in the country in April as a result of the strategic alliance GMC has forged with Fuji Heavy Industries, makers of Subaru cars. Known for its superior AWD and lightweight, yet powerful horizontally opposed engine, the Subaru Forester is the perfect vehicle for all types of road surfaces and was dubbed as the country's first Sports Safety Vehicle.

Feature Perfect.

Power mode selector switch Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Micron air filter Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventilation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct ignition system The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenance costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Multi-reflector headlamps Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

Liquid filled motor mounts Hydraulically tuned to help cancel the noise and vibrations produced by the engine, these motor mounts help ensure a quieter cabin.

Chassis to body mounts. Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Two-speed transfer case Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

Timing chain The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

Full frame with crumple zones The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

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Best in show competition brings glitter to Motorshow

BY JUN ALANO

SINCE 1989, when the first Motorshow was organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco), motoring aficionados have been looking forward to see their favorite cars compete in the event's Best in Show competition, and for good reasons.

The Best in Show is, in fact, Motorshow's biggest draw. It is here where visitors and guests are treated to the spectacular sight of glittering cars, all dressed up, their mighty engines exposed, their bodies waxed to perfect shine.

Motorshow's auto competition runs alongside the regular exhibit of new cars and car products, parts and accessories during the event's five-day run. It is divided into categories to make the competitions as level as could be because definitely, most contemporary cars could not hold a candle against the classics and the vintage models.

Motorshow's auto competition has six major categories: the Vintage, the Classic, the Sedan, Sports, Stock and Modified. Some of the categories are further divided into more specific groupings, especially in the modified entries.

AN ENTRY in Motorshow's auto competition

The Vintage models are categorized into two: the prewar cars from the period before 1944, and the postwar models that came out from 1946 thereon. Entries in this category must at least be 25 years old.

The Classic category accepts as entries only the exceptionally fine cars of specific make dating from 1930 to 1942. These are milestone cars and usually of limited edition such as the Lotus Elite (1950s type), Lotus Seven, Alfa Romeo Guiletta series, BMW 6-cylinder coupés, Cadillac's El Dorado, Rolls Royce's 3-cylinder cars, Volvo P1800 and the like.

The Sedans are 2-door or 4-door regular production cars that we see daily on the streets as family cars or as personal cars used to and from the office. Yet entries in these categories can hardly be described as "regular" after they are dressed up.

Sports models are mostly two-seaters with high performance engines meant for high-speed driving. These are usually convertibles or tangas, and usually makes sacrifices on room, comfort and convenience for the sake of superior performance handling.

The Stock category accepts cars straight from the factory, with no modifications made. Maintenance and good looks are often the clinchers in this contest.

The Modified Cars category, as stated earlier, is further divided into three areas: the Light, Medium and Heavy Modification. They have changes ranging from mag wheels, steering, dashboard to spoilers, side skirts to outright engine change and suspension changes.

Motorshow International, whose 12th edition is slated from Oct. 3 to 7 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, gives out regular awards to the best entries for Best in Paint, Best Engine Display and Auto Display of the Year.

But winning the Best in Show, which is selected from the winners in the various categories, is every competitor's ultimate dream. This is the highest stamp of approval from Motorshow's numerous judges who are all car experts and who each knows what a beauty is when they see one.

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Hong Kong's Auto Pass

ON THE ROAD
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHILE in Hong Kong over the weekend, I observed several new things related to land transportation. Although I used to visit Hong Kong every year, I hadn't been there since New Year's Eve 2000. So to those who travel to Hong Kong frequently, the following may be nothing new:

The Auto Pass is Hong Kong's version of the South Luzon Expressway's exclusive E-Pass lane at the entrance to the Cross-Harbor Tunnel and other tunnels. However, as in Metro Manila, there are a lot less motor vehicles using the electronic lane compared to the long queues at the cash lanes. Taxicab passengers are now required by law to use seatbelts or risk a fine. An illustration of and instructions on how to fasten the seatbelt are glued on the backs of the front seat head rests. The flagdown rate is still HK$15.

Part of Paterson Street in Causeway Bay has been closed to traffic and converted into a tiled promenade. It's a stone's throw away from Victoria Park and Sogo, the big department store.

Nitrous oxide, not turbo

A reader e-mailed me recently to correct what I wrote about a star car last year ("Eleanor' Steals the Show," PDI 8/24/00). I had written that "Eleanor," a turbo-charged 1967 Ford Mustang Shelby GT 500, stole the show from the Ferraris, Porsches, BMWs and Mercedes-Benzes shown in the movie "Gone in 60 Seconds." The reader, who did not give his name, wrote that Eleanor, driven by actor Nicolas Cage, left pursuers behind in a thrilling car chase not because it was turbo-charged but because of nitrous oxide. "Nothing else would give such acceleration, certainly not a turbo," the reader claimed.

Coincidentally enough, Autocar's issue this month features the man who rents out exotic cars like Eleanor to movie and music video producers. Michael Hoback of Cars on Camera supplied the 50 fabulous cars at the center of the "Gone in 60 Seconds" plot, including Eleanor and the Jaguar XJ220 driven by actress Angelina Jolie. Cars on Camera was also the source of Bruce Wayne's car collection in "Batman Forever" (starring Val Kilmer) that included a Mercedes-Benz Gullwing, a Ferrari Dino, a Shelby Cobra and a 1953 Aston Martin.

Mr. Hoback doesn't own these cars, he rents them out for US$2,000 to US$4,000 a day with the permission of their wealthy owners, several of whom are celebrities themselves. In his warehouse north of Hollywood, Mr. Hoback also stores, restores, maintains and moves around exotic cars for owners who don't have the time to do these things. Despite the Ferraris, Rolls, Jags, BMWs and Cadillacs in his warehouse, he remains unpretentious and drives a beaten-up 1979 Dodge Colt, Autocar reports.

How to save gas in a gas guzzler

With the USA and its allies girding for war against international terrorists, motorists are jittery about the impact on oil supply and prices. Owning a gas guzzler like an automatic transmission V8 Ford Expedition may be worrisome at this time. But reader Ed Muassab, who owns an Expedition, has discovered that its auto transmission is unlike those of Japanese or European vehicles. Mr. Muassab says that in the Expedition, shifting the gear lever to "2" is like downshifting and selecting "D" means shifting to higher gears. Summing up, for good fuel management, Mr. Muassab advises fellow Expedition owners: 1) Once engine is started, shift to "2." Make it a habit; 2) Maintain "2" at speeds lower than 60 kph; 3) Shift to "D" for speeds 60 kph or higher; 4) On expressways, use Cruise Control as often as possible; 5) Never exceed 80 kph on expressways if you're worried about fuel costs (applicable for any car!); 6) If gear lever is on "D," shift to "2" once you reach a stoplight; 7) Never shift to AwD, 4wH or 4wL unless absolutely necessary as additional weight and drag on your wheels consume more fuel.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

* * *

(E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph)

Strong Altis sales push Toyota to top position in PC segment

THE STRONG sales of the new Corolla Altis vaulted Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. back to the top of the passenger car (PC) market by selling a total of 917 units last month. It also topped again the overall industry sales with a month-total of 2,080 units capturing 27 percent of the market in August. Toyota now has a year-to-date total of 12,438 units.

The new Corolla Altis, which was introduced last July 28, posted the highest monthly sales for any sedan with 751 units accounting for almost 28 percent of the total passenger car market. Honda posted the second highest PC output last month by selling a total of 732 units with the Civic accounting for 510 units of the sales. Nissan came in third with a total sales output of 341 units with its new Nissan Sentra selling 283 units.

Bolstered by the strong showing of its passenger car line, the TMP firmed its grip as the perennial market leader with an unprecedented 11th year of market leadership already looming at the end of 2001. Total sales of Toyota last month reflects an increase of 22 percent from the previous month and is its highest sales output since September of last year.

THE NEW Corolla Altis

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines followed with sales of 1,861 units while Isuzu rounded out the top three with sales of 949 units.

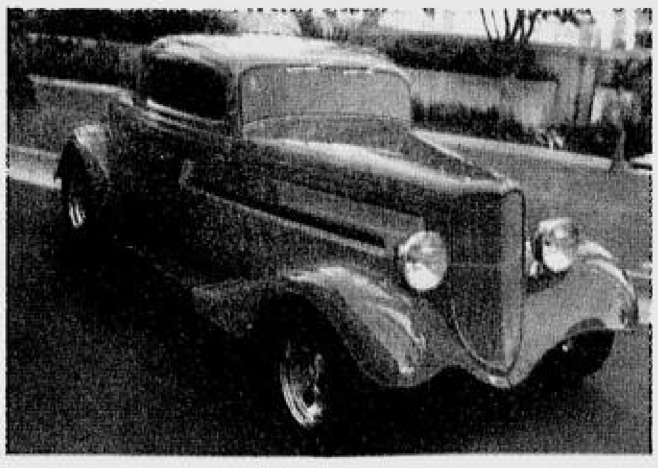
Year-to-date figure shows Toyota in first place with total vehicle sales of 12,438 units, which accounts to 25 percent of the total industry sales. Coming in second is Mitsubishi with a total of 11,061 units sold while Honda lands in third by selling a total of 6,639 units.

For the commercial vehicle (CV) category, Toyota landed in second place with 1,163 units sold for the month behind Mitsubishi, which posted sales of 1,615 units. The third place went to Isuzu, which sold 949 units. Toyota, however, continues to lead the pack by topping sales for the first eight months of the year; Toyota posted a total of 9,288 commercial vehicles units sold from January to August. Mitsubishi placed second with total CV sales of 9,090 units sold. Isuzu came in third with total sales of 6,206 units.

Despite the surge in the passenger car market, the AUV still manages to be the best-selling models for now with the Toyota Tamaraw FX Revo continuing to remain the best-selling model of the year with year-to-date sales of 6,524 units accounting for almost 13 percent of the market. The new Mitsubishi Adventure earns the distinction of being the second best-selling model with total sales of 4,490 units while the Isuzu Hilander/Crosswind rounds out the top three in the industry with a total of 3,723 units sold.

Show features Ford 'street rod' coupé

THE 1933 Ford "street rod" coupé is powered by a modified 351 cubic inch Ford Cleveland V-8 engine (inset).



THE 2001 Custom Car and Sport Truck Show will have this beautiful red 1933 Ford "street rod" coupé on display together with a multitude of other customized cars and sport trucks that are sure to impress show visitors.

Owned by American Steve Payne, the fully customized street rod is powered by a modified 351 cubic inch Ford Cleveland V-8 engine.

The annual last quarter event is all set to unfold this Sept. 26 to 30 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Organized by TradeShow International Inc., the show will embark on a new direction to provide motoring enthusiasts with a show that caters exclusively to the latest in automobile modifications. These range from mega engine and suspension performance upgrades to outlandish paint jobs, monster tires, body kits, earthshaking sounds and the most advanced in-car video systems.

The show is presented by Motolite with Shell Helix/Velocity as secondary presentor. Sponsors are Pioneer, BMB Karaoke Super Brand, 105.1 Crossover, 99.5 RT, 89.9 Magic, 103.5 K-Lite and Pharmaton.

Thieves still prefer . . .

(From page B11)

the battery (which powers the alarm). But so far, I haven't heard of any steering wheel lock being disabled. Maybe because cutting off the steering wheel lock would be too visible for people."

Apart from the alarm and lock systems, motorists are advised not to display valuables in the car such as the onboard TV and the stereo.

Even old cars, said Angeles, are tempting to car thieves. Old vehicles, he said, can still be useful for its spare parts.

"They get the doors, the windshield, or the hood. Whether (the car) is 10 years old or 12 years old, you still have to be very careful."

Angeles reported that sports utility vehicles are being stolen and being shipped in the south of the country and sold in Borneo. Preferred SUVs are medium-sized such as the four-wheel Range Rover, Pajero and Montero.

Warning

TMG's Soria warned motorists to be careful in entrusting their cars to the valet. It is possible that keys might be duplicated, he said. Soria warned that the next time motorists park in the same establishment, some individuals might already have the keys to their cars.

But, just like in the movie "Gone in 60 Seconds" where the entire steering wheel was removed and replaced by the thieves with another one, no protection seems to be too difficult to penetrate for professional thieves. Here in Metro Manila, motorists just have to wait with dread for "lightning to strike," it seems.

Helpful hints for first-time drivers

LEARNING how to drive is more complicated than starting to swim or riding a bike. For one, the driver doesn't only get to know the basics of how to operate a vehicle—he has to learn how to actually operate it in the challenging roads and highways that he will share with other cars.

Ideally, a teenager or anyone who wishes to start driving should undergo training from professional companies that offer driving lessons. Being instructed by a parent, relative or friend is no longer safe today. Teens, for one, are involved in the greatest number of serious auto accidents. Car crashes top the list as the leading cause of death among 16-24 year-olds, most resulting from reckless behavior and drunk driving.

Brake fluid technology leader Prestone shares the following tips for first-time drivers:

- First on-the-road experiences should be left to the care of a professional, so that appropriate actions can be taught for specific driving situations. A miscalculation in speed, a sudden change in traffic conditions, or an awkward combination of circumstances could lead to disaster. As much as possible get your lessons from an accredited driving school.
- After absorbing new knowledge about driving, concentrate on applying this information while learning how to drive. Whenever you commit a mistake, don't panic; just follow what the instructor says. Discuss with your instructor every mistake you committed after your training session.

- Watch out for the accumulation of bad habits that you will develop, such as forgetting to signal, sloppy turns, speeding, sudden changes in speed or direction, and lack of alertness. Next time you drive, keep these bad habits in mind and avoid making them.
- Attend defensive-driving seminars offered by your driving school. Defensive driving allows the driver to react sensibly instead of aggressively to other people's careless or unexpected actions on the road.
- After completing your driving lessons, plan practice sessions with a responsible relative or friend. Random driving around during practice sessions can be dangerous. A novice driver can get into trouble, quite easily in the early stages. For the initial sessions find the quietest streets possible. Work on the correct road and traffic procedures while practicing.
- Prepare for your government road test to acquire your license. Accurate lane driving and positioning for turns, good signal timing and good road sense are the basic ingredients for passing the test.
- Before getting into traffic, be sure that you have good coordination with your hands and feet. Until you are sure of the pedals and all the essential mechanics of driving, the danger of hitting the wrong pedal in a panic situation is always present.
- Know the rules and regulations on the road. Always be alert for road signs, traffic lights, and most of all, the vehicles around you and the pedestrians.
- Know the essential parts of your car and their functions. Upon the advent of a breakdown or any mechanical trouble, immediately get in touch with a mechanic or car repair expert and have them explain why your car broke down.
- Keep a positive and courteous attitude while driving. This determines how your knowledge and skills will be used once you're out in the real roads. It determines whether a driver will be cooperative or competitive in traffic, whether he or she will accept a high level of risk or put into practice the concepts taught on defensive driving courses. Patience, courtesy and a willingness to improve will be your best assets.
- And finally realize the importance of building a good driving record. Smart drivers are not only safe drivers, but also good and responsible motorists.

Scrapping the scrapyards

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

ANALYSIS

THERE are hundreds, even thousands of vehicles stolen yearly. Many are sold after some refurbishing. Even more are dismantled for parts.

Our traffic management and land transportation authorities have little or no data on the number of stolen vehicles scrapped and salvaged for parts. But a quick look around Evangelista and Banawe Streets and places with similar repute makes one wonder. Could that side mirror, air filter housing or door handle, have come from my neighbor's stolen Toyota?

Lucrative business

It is a simple fact that car theft is so rampant because it is such a lucrative business.

Criminal syndicates pay an average of P50,000 to P100,000 for the average 1.6-liter sedan. These are in turn sold for P150,000 to P200,000 to middlemen who take care of the transport, paperwork and refurbishing of the stolen vehicle. Street price of a stolen vehicle is usually the same as any secondhand car. But price negotiations are quick and dirty. You can ask for P50,000 off and get your L300 without a whimper.

Of course this price range is an average. A syndicate boss can pick a Pajero out of a parking lot, tell his boys it is his *kursunada* and get it a few hours later. Ditto to the same crime boss who assigns his *cabo* to fill in an order for say, 10 Toyota Corollas—1994 model—a favorite among car thieves. A package price of P100,000 for all 10 means P10,000 each.

Since there is more money and less risk when a stolen vehicle is dismantled for parts, this is the way to go for many car thieves—especially the "small-time," petty ones. Engines are usually sold whole, as are dashboards and steering components. Wheels, rims, doors, hoods, latches and the like find their way to surplus parts stores on Evangelista and Banawe but most are "exported" to Batangas, Cavite and Laguna, hometowns of owner jeeps assemblers.

Usually guilty

The small mom-and-pop surplus sellers on Banawe and Evangelista Streets are usually guilty of selling stolen items. Though the local government proudly trumpets these push-car vendors as triumphs of microfinancing and their livelihood programs, it doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes to discover that the wares they sell are stolen. (Which is why that rare side mirror for that Corolla Trueno is readily available there. You could be buying back your own car part!)

This is not to say that all "surplusan" auto spare parts shops are fenced items. There are, of course, the legitimate ones peddling parts from Korean and Japanese cars. Though many times the sources of the parts are also dubious (stolen Korean vans, maybe?), the fact that they were shipped in legally makes them technically, legal to sell.

It is easy to surmise that if car thieves would not have the market to sell their wares, car theft would decrease. Plausible theory, but workable, too. The authorities seem to pay little attention to this fact and the proliferation of surplus shops is proof enough of the profitability of stealing cars for spare parts.

Should it not be worth the time and effort for the authorities to look deeply into the surplus car parts business? Or is it just another money-making venture for them?

Thieves still prefer motorcycles, cars

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

TWO wheels are easier to steal than four.

Motorcycles top the list of the most stolen vehicles, accounting for 35.1 percent or approximately 500 units stolen from January to August 2001. Stolen cars rank second, accounting for 23.6 percent or 336 units. The third most stolen type of vehicle is the utility van at 9.1 percent or 129 units.

This was revealed in the latest vehicle information management statistical report of the intelligence office of the Traffic Management Group.

The number of reported vehicle theft cases as of Sept. 18, 2001 stand at 1,423 from January to August 2001, nearly 12 percent higher from the same period last year. Documented cases from January to August last year were 1,273.

As expected, the national capital region recorded the most number of stolen vehicles from January to August 2001 at 928 units or 65.2 percent of the total number of stolen vehicles. Far second is Region 4 at 176 or 12.4 percent of the stolen vehicles. Region 3 placed third at 10.9 percent or 155 units stolen vehicles.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Most stolen brands

Toyota-manufactured cars are the most stolen brand, with 288 units or 20.2 percent of the total cars stolen. Honda and Mitsubishi share second place at 187 units or 13.1 percent of all cars stolen. Isuzu is third with 101 units stolen or 7.1 percent. Nissan is fourth with 88 units or 6.2 percent.

The start of the year seems to be the time when thieves are busiest. It was in January when the most number of vehicles were reported stolen, with 14.6 percent or 208 units, followed by the rainy months of July and June at 13.8 percent (197 units) and 13.5 percent (192 units), respectively. Vehicle theft cases for the months of February, March, April and May range from 12.3 to 13.1 percent.

Drop in stolen cars

There was, however, a surprising drop of reported cases of vehicle theft in August, when only 94 units (6.6 percent) were stolen.

Col. Elmer Soria of the intelligence office of the Traffic Management Group credits the drop in stolen vehicles to increased police visibility.

Prevention tips

Automobile Association of the Philippines executive director Johnny Angeles and Soria recommended a simple gadget that could effectively deter thieves—the steering wheel lock. Unfortunately, there is no modified steering wheel lock for the most stolen vehicle nowadays—the motorcycle.

Otherwise, for cars the wheel lock is effective, they say, because the gadget is virtually indestructible. Wheel locks are made of die cast, solid steel and robbers would have to spend considerable time to remove a wheel lock.

Angeles added that a pedal lock is also available.

The wheel and pedal locks are also highly advisable even for cars with sophisticated alarm systems. Alarms, Angeles said, could be disabled quickly.

"Car thieves would (cut off) the wiring to

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Should...

(From page B12)

as a true contract since it suppresses the will of one of the parties. In parking tickets, said Sen. Rene Cayetano, only the mall owner fixes the terms, leaving the car owner with no choice but to accept these.

Warning

Cayetano, in a Sept. 16 statement, warned mall owners that they could be held liable if cars parked in their facilities are lost to thieves. He has expressed concern over the increasing number of cars seized from the parking lots of shopping malls in Metro Manila.

The senate committees on trade and industry and on justice and human rights during the previous congress filed a Senate resolution inquiring into the unscrupulous practices of commercial establishments of excising charges for parking.

Ivan Claudio of the office of Cayetano said the joint public hearings of both committees came out with a report submitted to the Senate finding the practice illegal and a violation of the national building code. One of the committees' recommendations was to have the Office of the Solicitor General file a case against the commercial establishments.

The preliminary hearing for this case is set on Sept. 27. Solicitor Rico Liwanag of the Office of the solicitor general could not be reached for comment as of presstime.

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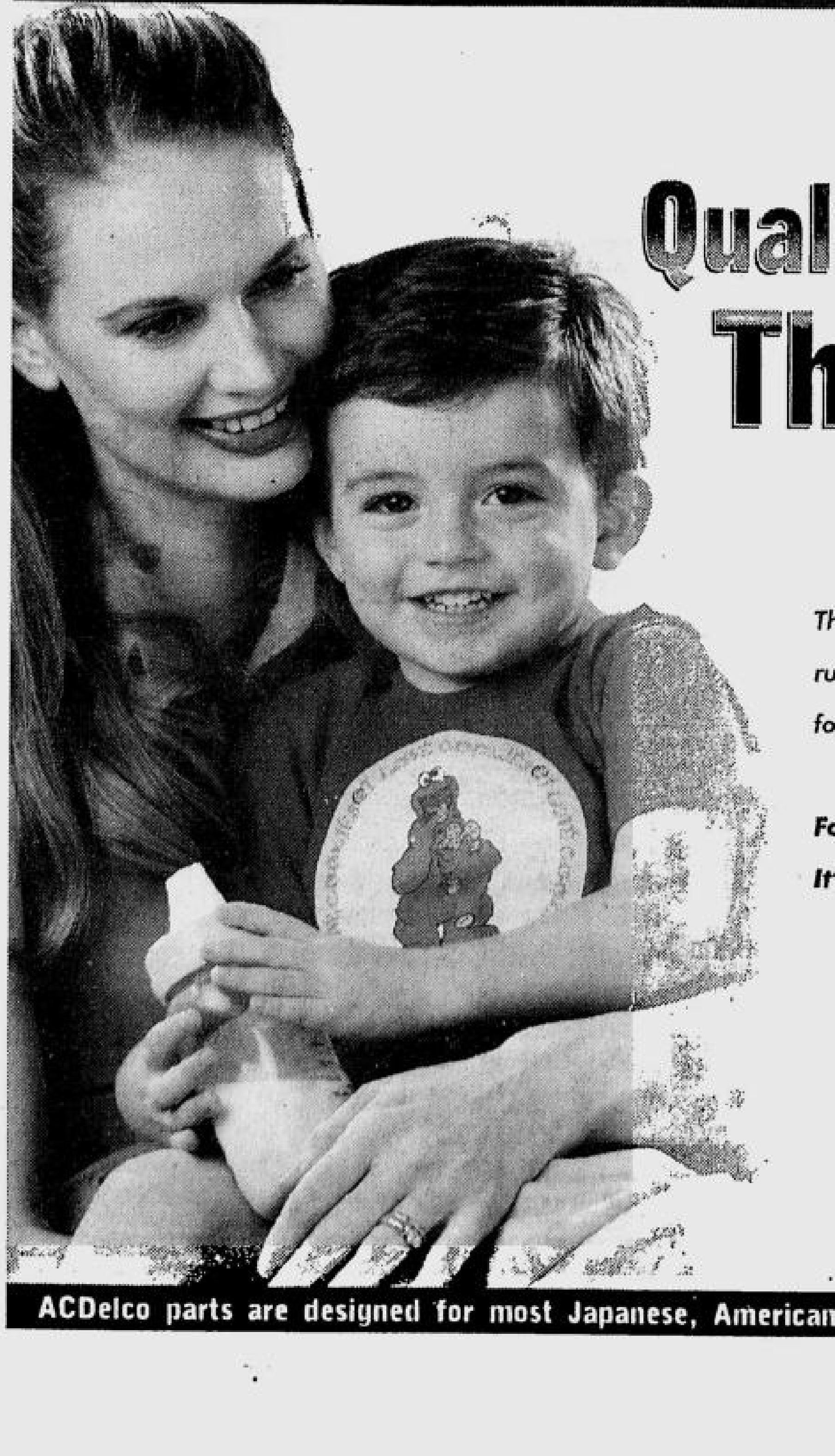

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

STOLEN WHILE PARKED

Should commercial firms be held liable?

By Tessa R. Salazar

GERALDO Gamboa parked his '94 model Toyota Corolla at a secured parking lot of Robinsons Calamba. It was lost later to car thieves.

Ding Benitez of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines was preparing for her dealer's mall display. She parked her company's dark green Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport at the covered multilevel parking of Megamall at 7:30 p.m.

At around 11 p.m., when the mall guards told her the multilevel parking had to close at midnight, she moved the AUV to the open parking area at the back of Megamall Building A.

The Mitsubishi mall display was finally set up at 1:20 a.m. When she went back to the parking lot, all she could see was empty space-no trace of the Adventure.

Complaint

As she filed her complaint, the mall guards cast their doubts on her, challenging her to prove that she, indeed, parked it in the "area of responsibility" of SM Megamall.

But what difference would it have made? Had Benitez or Gamboa parked their vehicles inside any of the commercial establishments' parking lots and the vehicles still got lost, they would have most likely met the same aura of indifference.

Why? The cold reply is clearly printed at the back of the parking ticket issued to you once you enter the pay parking.

"Car park management is not responsible for any damage to or loss of the vehicle or its accessories or articles left therein.

"The ticket is subject to the rules of Car Park Management. Customers shall be held liable for any damage they may cause to the car park building or its accessories or to persons or any other property inside the Car Park Building."

"Customers who lost their ticket shall be charged P50 and will be required to present the original certificate of registration and current official receipt or their acceptable identification. Refund of P50 shall be made upon presenting the Lost Ticket and Lost Parking Receipt within seven days."

Waiver

The mall establishments' waiver frees the mall owners from any liability in case of car theft or other losses suffered by the car owner. The establishments are reportedly only responsible in securing a parking space for the mall patrons but not necessarily responsible for the loss of the vehicles.

This waiver of liability is a "contract of adhesion" and had been dismissed by the Supreme Court as "nonbinding," according to the Senate committees on trade and industry and on justice and human rights during the previous congress.

The waiver of adhesion cannot be regarded

SHOULD / P.B11

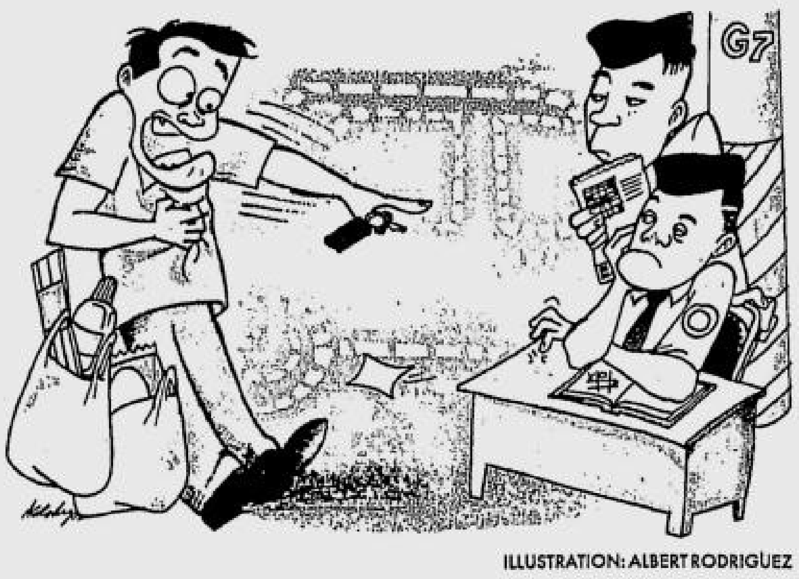
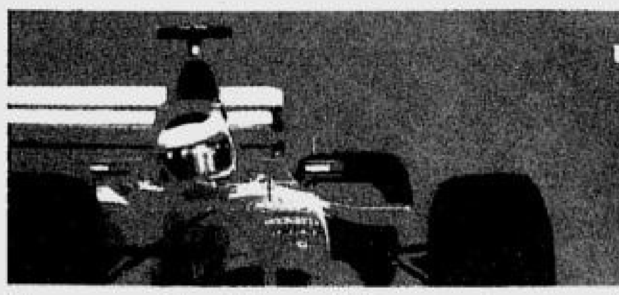


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



The Circuit

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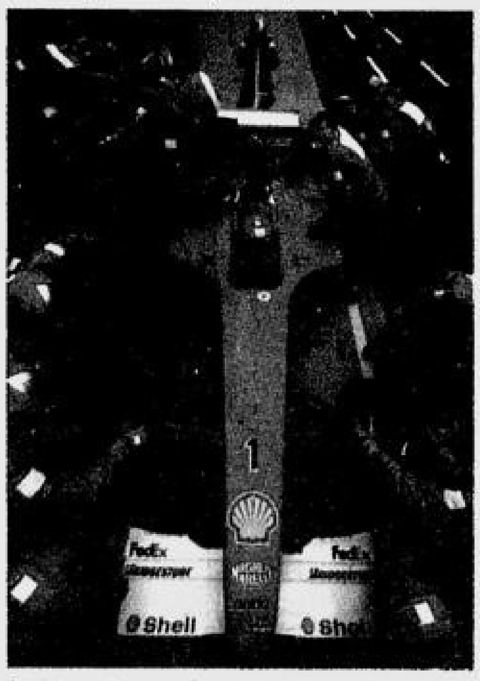

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TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	161
MCLAREN	81
WILLIAMS	73
SAUBER	20
BAR	17
JORDAN	16

LOCAL RACING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE
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DRAG RACING QUARTERMILE 2001 Harbor Center	Oct 6
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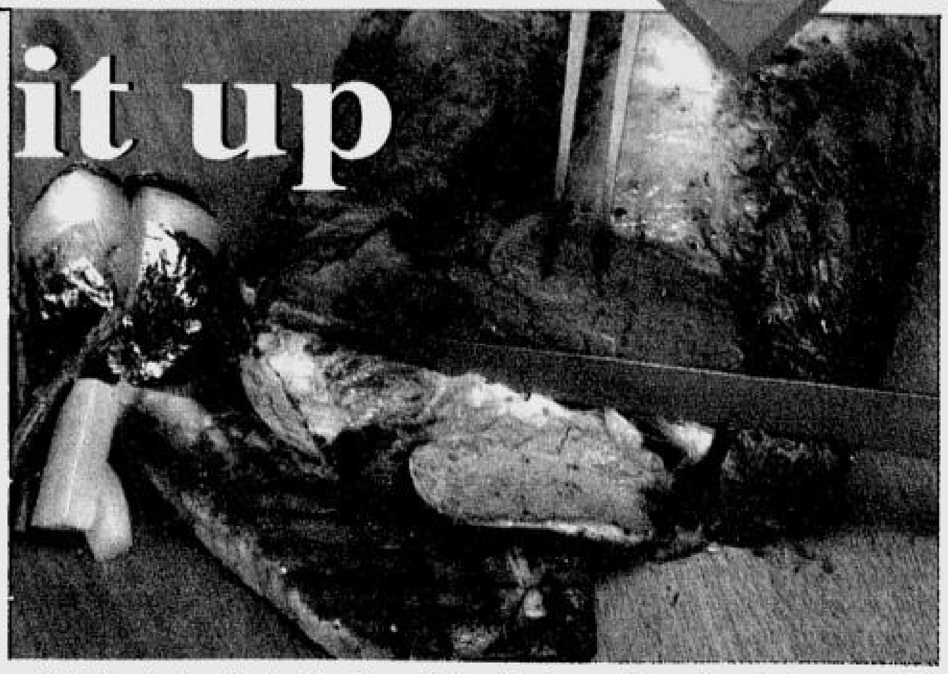
LIFESTYLE Tastes

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Beef it up



RELISH a sumptuous experience at The Rotisserie, with dishes expertly prepared by Holiday Inn Manila executive chef Martin Kohler using succulent US beef. You can try a sampling at home through these recipes courtesy of Chef Kohler.

Cajun Steak Salad

Crisp garden greens with barbecue vinaigrette and sautéed tenderloin cubes

50 g crisp garden lettuce
80 g US tenderloin cubes

Barbecue Vinaigrette:
100 g barbecue sauce
½ c vinegar
olive oil

Sauté garlic in olive oil until golden brown. Add tenderloin cubes and set aside. Arrange crisp garden lettuce in a plate and add sautéed tenderloin cubes. Set aside. Mix barbecue sauce and vinegar in a pan. Let boil for about 5 minutes or until sauce becomes thick. Pour the sauce around the crisp lettuce and serve.

Ranger Steak

10 oz rib-eye grilled to perfection with fried onion, bacon strips and potato wedges served with special Ranger Sauce

10 oz rib-eye
100 g fried onion
50 g bacon
50 g potato wedges

Ranger Sauce:
½ c soy sauce
1 tbsp oysters
1 tbsp sesame oil
1 tbsp vinegar
1 tbsp sugar

Grill the steak and set aside. Fry onions; set aside as well. Fry the potato wedges and sauté together with the bacon strips. Arrange the steak in a plate and add fried onions on top of the meat. Arrange potato wedges with bacon strips on the side. Pour the special Ranger Sauce on top of the meat. Garnish with broccoli, potatoes and carrots.

Tonkatsu Beef Medallions

Breaded mini steaks with sweet Japanese soy sauce and stir-fried yaki udon noodles

180 g US beef tenderloin
100 g *yaki udon* noodles
200 g breadcrumbs
1 pc egg

Japanese Sauce:
½ c soy sauce
20 g ginger
20 g vinegar
20 g sugar
20 g *unsoy*

Roll the tenderloin in flour, egg and breadcrumbs. Pan-fry and set aside. Boil *yaki udon* noodles until cooked. Sauté in butter. Put the sautéed *yaki udon* noodles in the middle of the plate and place 3 pc of medallions around the noodles. Pour sauce on side of the meat and serve.

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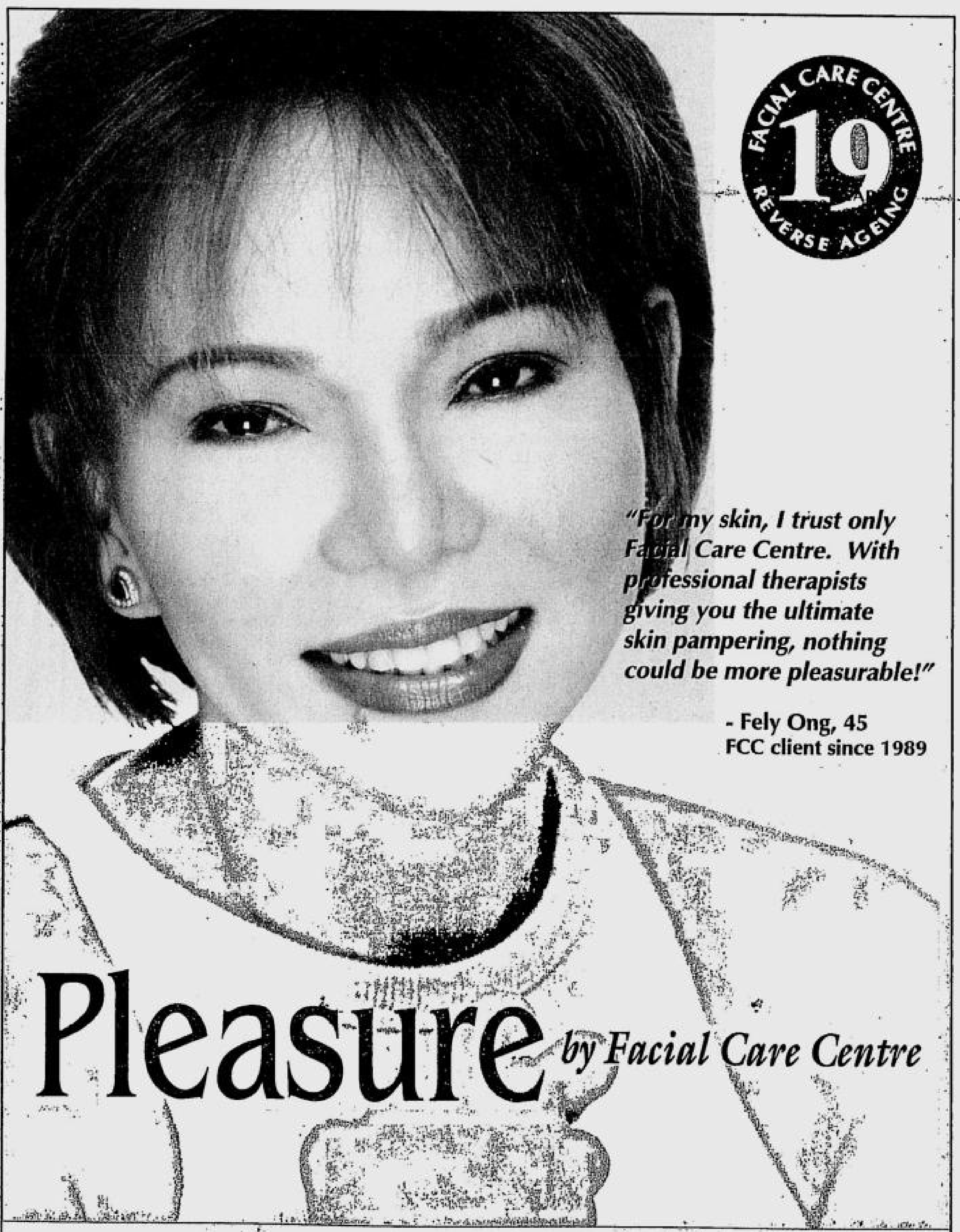
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To create is to love

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

OVER THE WEEKEND, a friend and I visited Edith Tiempo at her home in Dumaguete. She received us graciously, though I was somewhat miffed when she asked me: "Are you a writer?" I humbly answered in the negative. I felt somewhat redeemed when later in the conversation, I brought up Nick Joaquin, and she asked in the same bewildered tone: "Is he a writer?" It's pretty good company with which to be not remembered. We talked long into the night, about poetry, the sounds of words, the multiplicity of meanings. One thing was taken for granted during the conversation; it was postulated from the beginning, never questioned: that one should write; that one should create.

When did it begin? I am often asked. At what age, what moment, what day and time, did I begin to write? To cook? To collect bells? I often give a flippant answer. They are true: I create not because of some mysterious supernatural force, but often out of mundane ones: to give pleasure to one's friends with a good dinner; to impress girls with the size of my vocabulary (compensatory, many would point out); to be "loved more," as Gabriel Garcia Marquez would put it. Very well: today I give a lyrical one. It may bring you no closer to the truth, perhaps only a shade nearer to understanding.

An image: one morning, in our house in the mountains, sunlight, golding, in slanted rays through the curtainless windows, the dust motes dancing and creating beams that end in squares of blinding radiance. The early-morning sun on the ceiling of my room. Inside it is all ochre, sienna, jumbled up, thick stipples, shadows in gray; through the window it is a riotous burst of color: the dark green foliage of the garden, which needs trimming, the overhanging loquat tree with its waxy leaves and violently orange fruit; the burst of red from the *gumamela* that has grown wild all around the house. The light is pure in its brilliance: impossible to replicate this on canvas. Every morning it is an inebriating high just to step out of the house into the light and the warmth. The world enters me when I sit outside, on the little ledge just up the hill from our washing line where one can look down at a small valley and the ruined church, and try to work: its scents, in the air that I breathe, the warmth of the sunshine on my face and limbs. Sometimes I raise my head to the sky and open my mouth wide, to inhale and engulf and devour the unimaginable beauty and silence around me. It works its way within me and charges me: in both the modern sense, like a series of battery cells; and in the older meaning of being bidden. Bidden to do something, to make something, to create something. The impulse is so strong that it makes my fingers tremble with excitement.

They say that there is no memory of scent: that is its irony, science contends; that the hair-spring-trigger of memory should leave no recallable trace of its own, cannot be filed, indexed, prompted. It is true that I cannot conjure up in my mind the scent nutmeg as I could the image of a rhinoceros; I cannot play it back inside my head as I would a bar of music or poetic verse. But I remember scents because they translate to the other languages of the body: words, yes, the limited vocabulary of the herbalist or perfumer; and then words that do not describe but link, like bonfire signals sending news across distances, by representation, by contiguity, by possession; and then scents describe themselves with a language of their own: the deepest hues of color; the slow husk of a whisper or the flash of an arpeggio; the touch of rain, or sand, or skin. The memory of scent is not a thing, occupying space, possessing weight, but more akin to a point or harness-hook. I remember them, sometimes at will, often unbidden, through their translations, by synaesthasia and the quietest etiolation: until I find I can draw out, even in darkness, the purest of scents: of the sea, of oranges, of light.

Taste is scent and flavor and touch, and the rarest purity of taste is apprehended in darkness and silence; and there is a taste of love, as unique and tangible and recognizable as that of vanilla or cinnamon or oranges. Those who have never tasted it may not recognize it as it seeps through lips or skin or rumpled sheets: but once tasted it is never forgotten, and the desire for it is corporeal, a craving passion that surpasses addiction. It is not the taste of a person, of the moisture that rises from the creases of the body, of hair, or the alcoholic bitter taste of a perfume's lingering trace. It comes from nowhere but suddenly it's on your tongue, and your body awakens as though an electric current has passed through it; and you feel hunger as you've never felt it before, a carnal appetite, an awakened taste. We can take photographs and record sound, but there is no mechanical device that can replay the touch of a finger running down my nape, the breath of the darkened sea cooling the sweat on my cheeks, the wild scent of foliage slick with night-time dew, and the sea, the broad stroke of an oil brush glistening as though fresh from the tube, the horizon-line almost indistinguishable as it melted into the huge empty night. The taste of love from the nearness of a woman's touch, adrift in the sea's salt waft as old as the world, older than mankind, older than the invention of love.

And so I create: words, tastes, sometimes even paintings or songs, because it is the only way I know how to love. To remember; to understand; to communicate: incidentals, all; inconsequential. Under my hair my scalp is slick with sweat; my palms are freezing cold; I find myself gasping for air: I want the taste of love on my tongue again. I wish for comprehension, love and, above all, happiness. All the pleasures are still there and have not changed. I wrote elsewhere, once: "The organ of taste is not the tongue, but the imagination."

To create: to sit at a blank screen and fill it with words, to take the finite hues of the palate and paint the universe, to begin with the ingredients of the everyday and transform them into the divine. I crouch at my kitchen table and make coffee over the gas stove: milky and strong, with a pale brown crown of velvety foam. It is excellent coffee; its taste might be of mud. My mind has been cloven into dueling combatants, seeking mastery of the other: the half which senses and the half which thinks and imagines. On my tongue I taste the bittersweet ecstasy of the pleasure of the coffee; but my palate craves the taste of love. And thus it began, my writing, my cooking; and thus it begins: not once, long ago, but every day I live.

> To sit at a blank screen and fill it with words, to take the finite hues of the palate and paint the universe, to begin with the ingredients of the everyday and transform them into the divine—thus it begins

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
L'Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique

Joint
CEAP Diamond Jubilee Convention
& OIEC Asia Millennium Congress

20-22 September 2001
The Waterfront Hotel
Lahug, Cebu City, Philippines

EXPANDING HORIZONS
EXPLORING Dialogue

Shaping Catholic Education in Asia in the New Century

Asia—a continent of diverse cultures, religion and ideologies. Known as the birthplace of some of the world's greatest religions. The way of life is as varied as the beliefs and manner of worship of its people. In Asia, the Christian faith has taken root in many countries although only in the Philippines is it acknowledged as the religion of the majority. Still, the faithful continue to grow. Thanks to the missionaries and the institutions, particularly educational institutions, which have nurtured it through difficult, even violent periods in history.

At the start of the new millennium when John Paul II calls on the faithful to "Put out into the deep" and the Church renews its vigor in its work of mission and evangelization, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and the *L'Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique* (OIEC) embark on an endeavor that will advance possibilities of Expanding Horizons and Exploring Dialogue. This will hopefully lead to understanding, acceptance and sharing that will, in turn, pave the way for more meaningful communion and stronger partnerships among educational associations and institutions in this part of the world.

The CEAP is the national association of Catholic educational institutions in the country, now composed of 1,183 members, while the OIEC or the International Office of Catholic Education represents Catholic education worldwide and aims to be an expression of the Church's presence in education. Its members include the National Catholic Education Secretariats of various countries.

CEAP and OIEC have organized the **Joint CEAP Diamond Jubilee Convention and OIEC Asia Millennium Congress.** The event starts today, September 20, and will end on Saturday, September 22. Country representatives from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand will join presidents and administrators, deans and coordinators, faculty, parent and student representatives from Catholic universities, colleges and schools from all over the Philippines.

The expected 1,500 delegates will have the opportunity to explore Asian identity and spirituality, consider the implications of globalization, and respond to the challenges posed by the Catholic church with regard to the global and Asian situation and in the light of its work of evangelization.

In a message for the Congress, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin pointed out the significance of this point in history when the Church seeks to deepen its evangelization and mission. He stressed that particular emphasis should be placed on Asia's role, especially on us Filipinos, to hold aloft the light and truth of Christ for the whole of Asia and the world to discover.

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop of Cebu, on the other hand, stressed the importance of a Catholic education that is strong in its foundation and wide in its vision in order for Christ's message to be heard in our fast changing world.

Fr. Roderick Salazar Jr., SVD, CEAP President and OIEC Vice-President for Asia, explains that the theme of the Congress, *Expanding Horizons, Exploring Dialogue: Shaping Catholic Education in Asia in the New Millennium,* takes into consideration the diversity of the peoples in Asia as well as the great possibilities for communion despite differences. He reminds Catholic educators in the Philippines that "we live in an immediate neighborhood that is multi-cultural and multi-religious, "Our students must learn to live in such a world. We must teach them, lead them, even as we must teach ourselves."

The challenge then for us today: to dialogue with one another, treat one another in such a way that our communication, communion and community-building may have as fruit the creation of a new person for this new century and millennium.

Congress Highlights

1:30 pm Opening Ceremonies
CEAP Business Meeting
Report on the Survey of the **State of Religious Education in the Philippines**
4:15 **Forum on Educational Thrusts and Legislative Concerns**

- *Education Secretary Raul S. Roco*
- *CHED Executive Director Roger Perez*
- *TESDA Dep. Dir-Gen Milagros Dawa-Hernandez*
- *Representative Edmund Reyes*
- *Representative Harlin Abayon*

7:30 am **Eucharistic Celebration**
H.E. Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, DD
10:30 **Keynote Address: *Dr. Victor Ordoñez***
11:30 Talk on **OIEC**
Fr. Andres Delgado Hernandez, SDB, OIEC Secretary General
1:45 pm **State of Asian Catholic Education**
(Country Presentations from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand)
4:30 Talk: **Christian Challenge to the Asian Soul**
Fr. Luis Antonio G. Tagle
Rector, Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol

8:00 am **Concurrent Sessions and Workshops**
Group 1: School Heads/Vice-Heads and Superintendents
Transformative Educational Leadership
Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan *President, Miriam College*
Group 2: Graduate School/College Deans
Integral Human Capacity Building in Higher Education
Dr. Antonio Torralba*, Dean, University of Asia and the Pacific*
Group 3: Elem. Principals, Faculty/Parents' Association Reps.
Enhancing Curriculum & Faculty Development in Elementary Educ.
Mrs. Florina Castillo *Elementary Principal, St. Scholastica's College*
Group 4: High School Principals, Faculty/Parents' Association Reps.
Enhancing Curriculum & Faculty Development in Secondary Educ.
Fr. Carmelo Caluag, SJ *Vice President for Planning and Development, Ateneo de Manila University*
Group 5: Religious Educ. Coordinators and Campus Ministers
Integral Formation of Students and Faculty
Msgr. Manuel Gabriel *President, Pasig Catholic College*
Group 6: Student Affairs Coordinators, Guidance Counselors and Student Representatives
Formation of Student Leaders for the New Millennium
Prof. Rene Salvador R. San Andres *Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Ateneo de Manila University*
Group 7: OIEC-Asia Organizational Meeting
2:30 pm **Eucharistic Celebration** *Fr. Vicente Cajilig, OP, Executive Secretary*
Office of Education and Student Chaplaincy
Federation of Asian Bishops Conference (FABC)

Dr. Victor Ordoñez
Keynote Speaker

Fr. Roderick C. Salazar Jr., SVD
CEAP President
OIEC Vice President for Asia

Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan
Resource Speaker
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Sec. Raul Roco
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Courses on cooking and restaurant operations

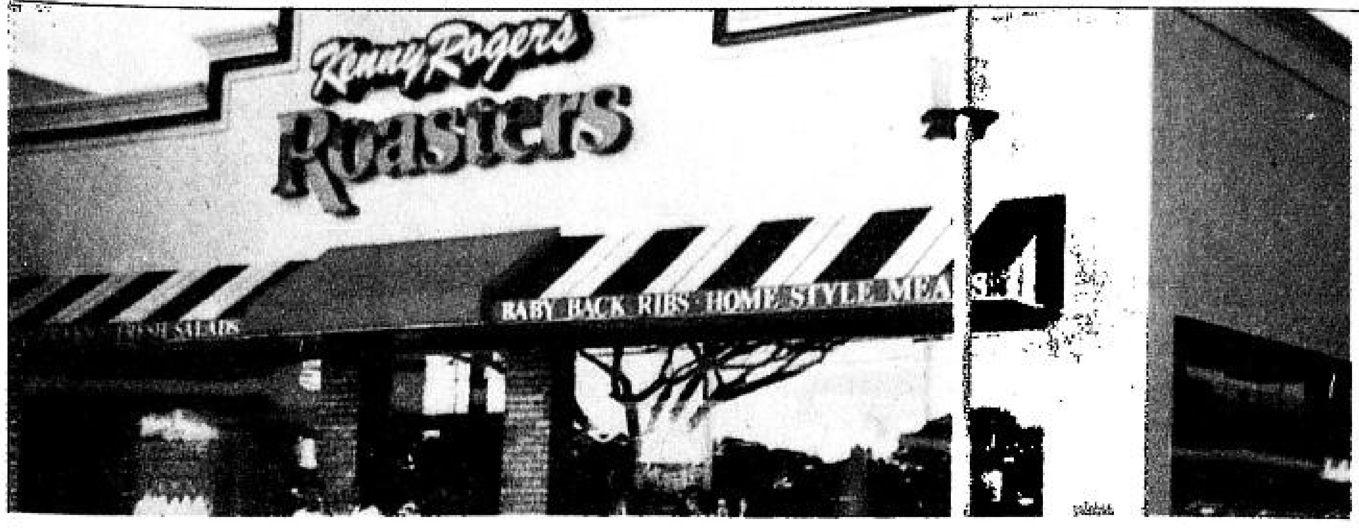
ON SEPT. 22 and 29, Maya Kitchen will conduct special lectures on baking, cooking and restaurant business.

On Sept. 22 at 9 a.m., Japanese Cooking features an all-time favorite cuisine that includes *miso* soup, tempura, teriyaki, kamameshi and seven different types of sushis.

On Sept. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., learn the ins and outs of running a restaurant in Restaurant Operations course. Be an expert in kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory and other restaurant related matters.

Start up your own *panaderia* with the course on Pinoy Bread Making on Sept. 29, 1:30-5 p.m. Satisfy the Pinoy's appetite with their favorite *ensaymada*, *mongo* loaf, Spanish bread, cinnamon rolls, *pan de sal*, *pan de coco*, rainbow bread, banana bread and raisin bread.

Visit the Maya kitchen at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.



Resto group marks 26 years of dining service

THE TRI-CHEFS group of restaurants marks its 26 years of delighting the tastes and sensibilities of food-loving Filipinos. Highlighting its celebration is the Ima Anibersarap Buffet of home-cooked style Capampangan dishes. The buffet costs only P199.

Since it opened its first restaurant in 1975, Tri-Chefs continues to entrance diners with the delightful Japanese specialties of Takayama, the novel ways of enjoying fish prepared by Bangus, the sumptuous Capampangan recipes of Ima, and the delicious baked creations of Cake Station.

Japanese buffets at Takayama outlets in Greenhills and Jupiter in Makati are even bigger and better, at the same affordable price of P395+.

The corporation not only offers food, but also cultural presentations. On Sept. 17, it demonstrated the arts of calligraphy, origami, ikebana and kabuku at the Takayama on Jupiter. The presentation was made by the Phil-Japan Cultural Institute.

Tri-Chefs now also brings its dining experience to home and office parties with the launching of the Tri-Chefs Club. Its food and exquisite table settings for parties for hundreds of diners and small, intimate dinners and cocktail parties make special occasions memorable. Call 723-8220, 725-1419 or 896-8976.

CUP names Kenny Rogers as most outstanding restaurant

RECOGNIZING top manufacturers and service providers who continually strive for excellence in quality and services rendered at all times, the Consumers Union of the Philippines Inc., the top consumer organization in the Philippines, recently awarded Kenny Rogers Roasters the Most Outstanding Restaurant Chain for the year 2000.

Winning the CUP Awards for four consecutive years since 1997, KR offers delicious and convenient quality meals in an upper-class ambience. KR was the first chain to introduce "fast-casual dining" in the Philippines. Fast-casual dining combines the fast-food concepts of speedy service, affordable pricing and clean surroundings with the fine dining features of high-quality food served in a warm, caring and friendly environment.

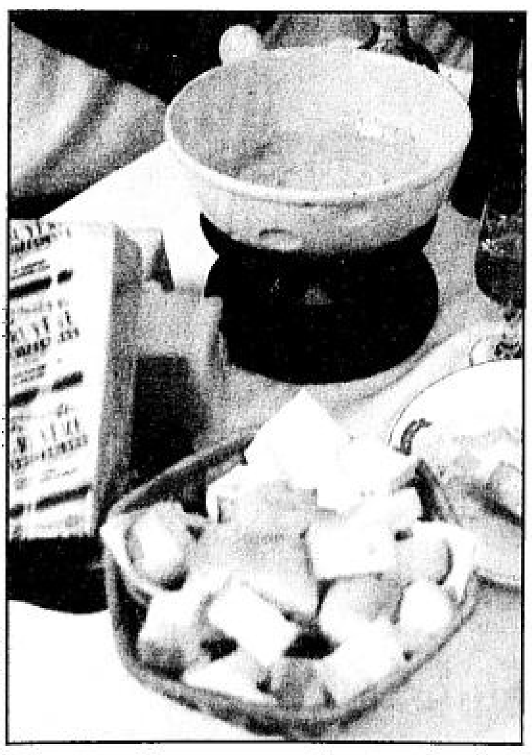
KR has raised the bar for casual dining and guest service by several notches. Customers are given a wider variety in center plates and side dishes. Aside from chicken, KR's guests have feasted on baby back ribs, smoked ham, grilled tuna platters and pork chops. KR's side dishes and its famous muffins have also been certified crowd-drawers. Achieving in six years what no other fast-food chain has in the same period, KR sales in 2000 reached over P1.025 billion.

Roasters Phils. Inc., operator of Kenny Rogers Roasters chain of restaurants, has grown to 32 stores since it opened its first in 1995.

Before the end of the year, the chain will open new stores in Baguio and in the Gaisano and SM malls in Davao. These three new stores will also be the first franchisee stores of the system. Branches in Iloilo and Pampanga were opened last year.

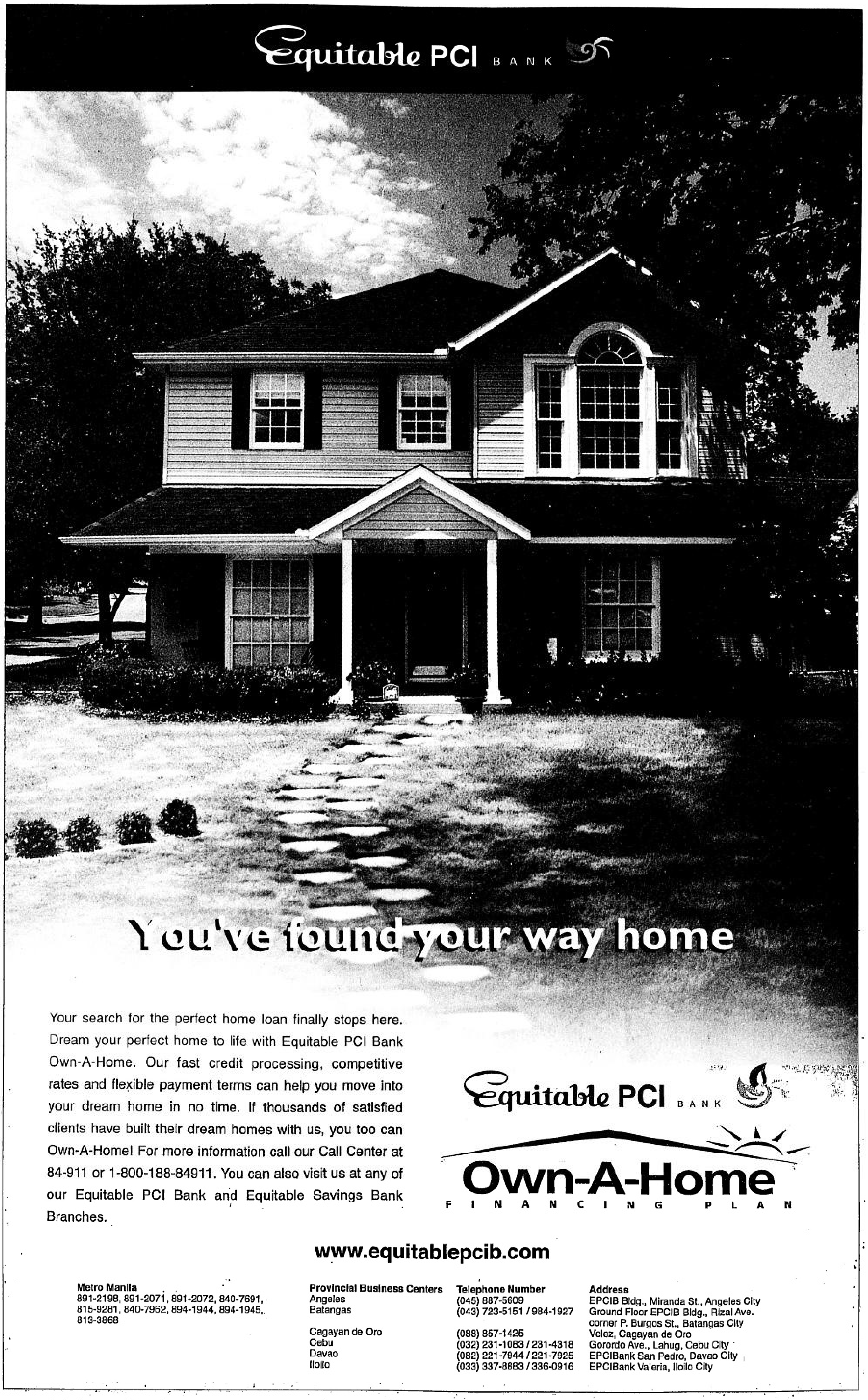
Roasters Philippines Inc. looks forward to expanding into more cities in 2002. It is in the process of scouting for new store sites and new franchisees that will work with them to present excellent food and warm and friendly service to more Filipinos.

Roasters Philippines is the sister company of Seattle's Best Côffee, a café chain which has developed into a cool lifestyle alternative to bars and cocktail lounges. Following the success of KR, SBC has put up seven branches in its first year of operations.



A FEEL FOR FONDUE

The Old Swiss Inn Restaurant offers a different dining experience with its wide array of tempting fondues. The Waatlander Fondue (above) is the classic Swiss cheese fondue, bread cubes dipped in a creamy mixture of wine and melted Gruyere and Emmenthal cheese with dashes of kirsch (cherry liqueur). Derived from the French word *fondre*, which means "to melt," the fondue is a traditional Swiss dish consisting basically of melted cheese and wine, into which crackers or small pieces of toast are dipped. The restaurant also has a catering service that offers fine cuisine, including fondues, at flexible rates. The Old Swiss Inn, with a rich history dating back to the 1940s, has branches at the Olympia Towers on Makati Avenue (tel. 818-8251), The Garden Plaza Hotel Suites in Paco, Manila (521-3002), and Bon Marche at the Greenbelt Mall in Makati (813-3262).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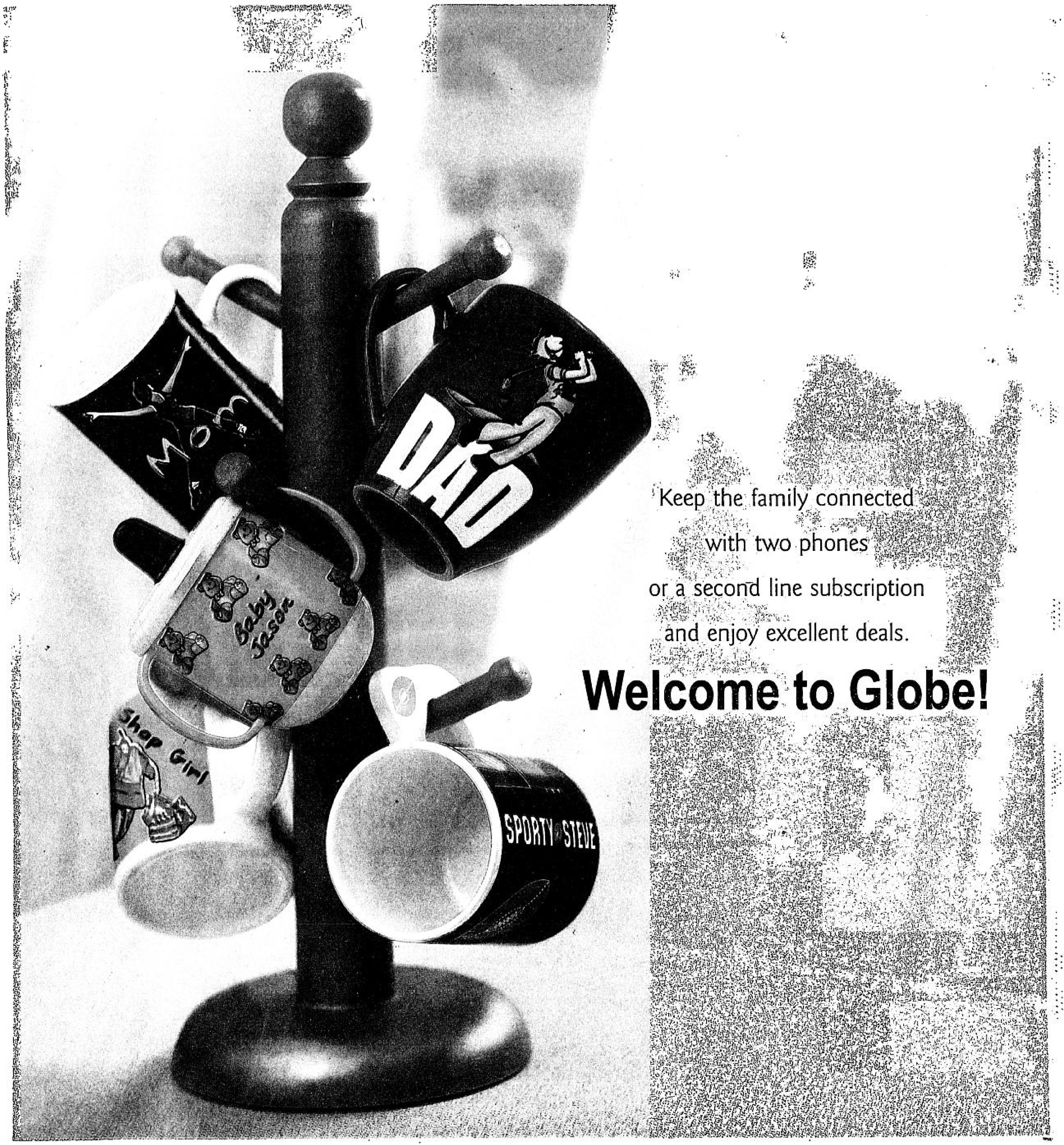
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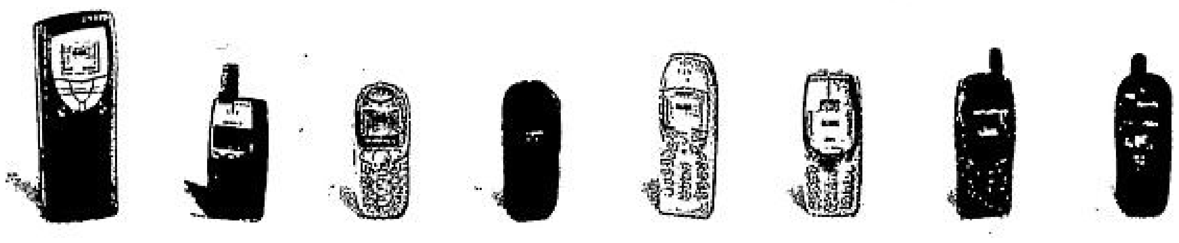

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Executive ₱1,997	32,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
CEO ₱2,662	29,500	6,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
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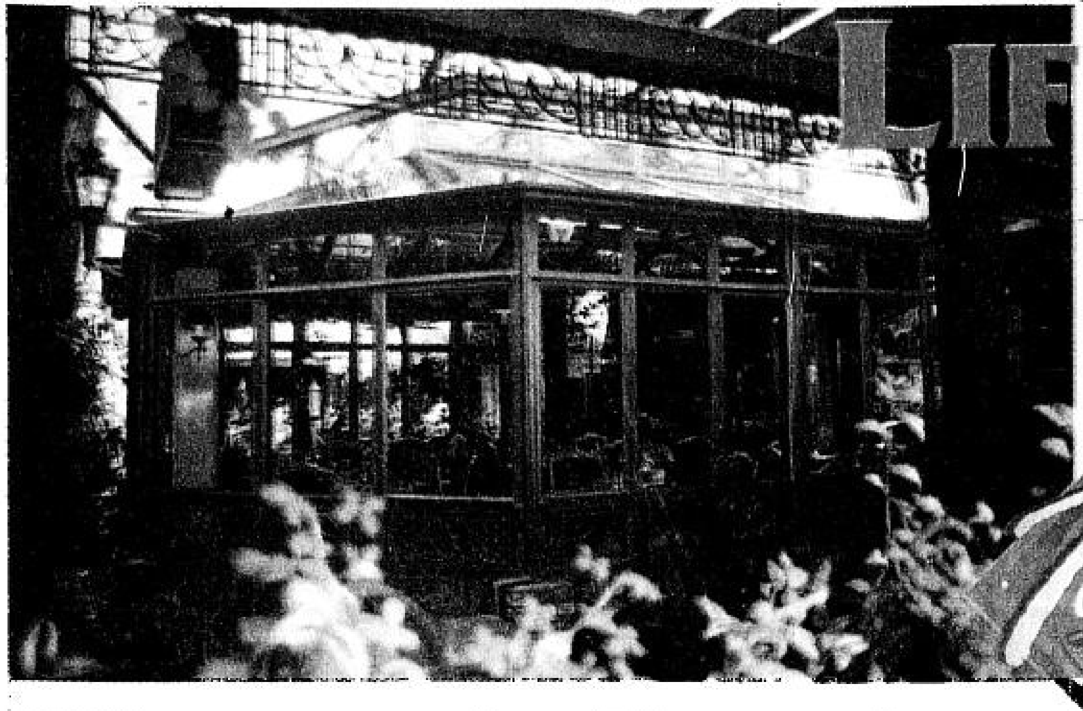

GLASSHOUSE

Tastes

Through Portico into the Glasshouse and out the Sidebar

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

CHATEAU 1771 defines the city of Manila and is exactly what a restaurant and bar should be: a social way station for Manileños of every species and age, a place to grab a wake-up espresso and eat well at any hour.

Built in 1988 in Malate, the fine dining restaurant moved to a Mediterranean-style building at El Pueblo in Pasig in 1995. While many guests and old friends have come to love the Ortigas Chateau, a lot of people still pined for the original.

So Ricky Gutierrez, president and CEO of

THROUGH/p.D2

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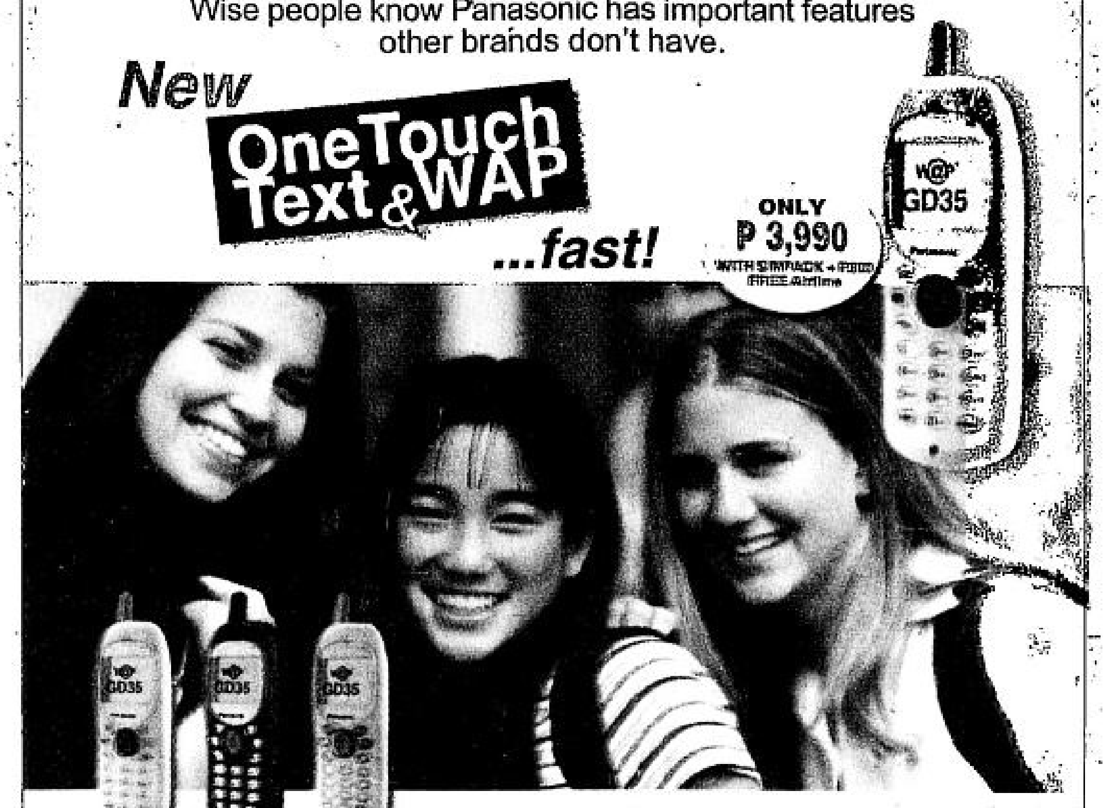

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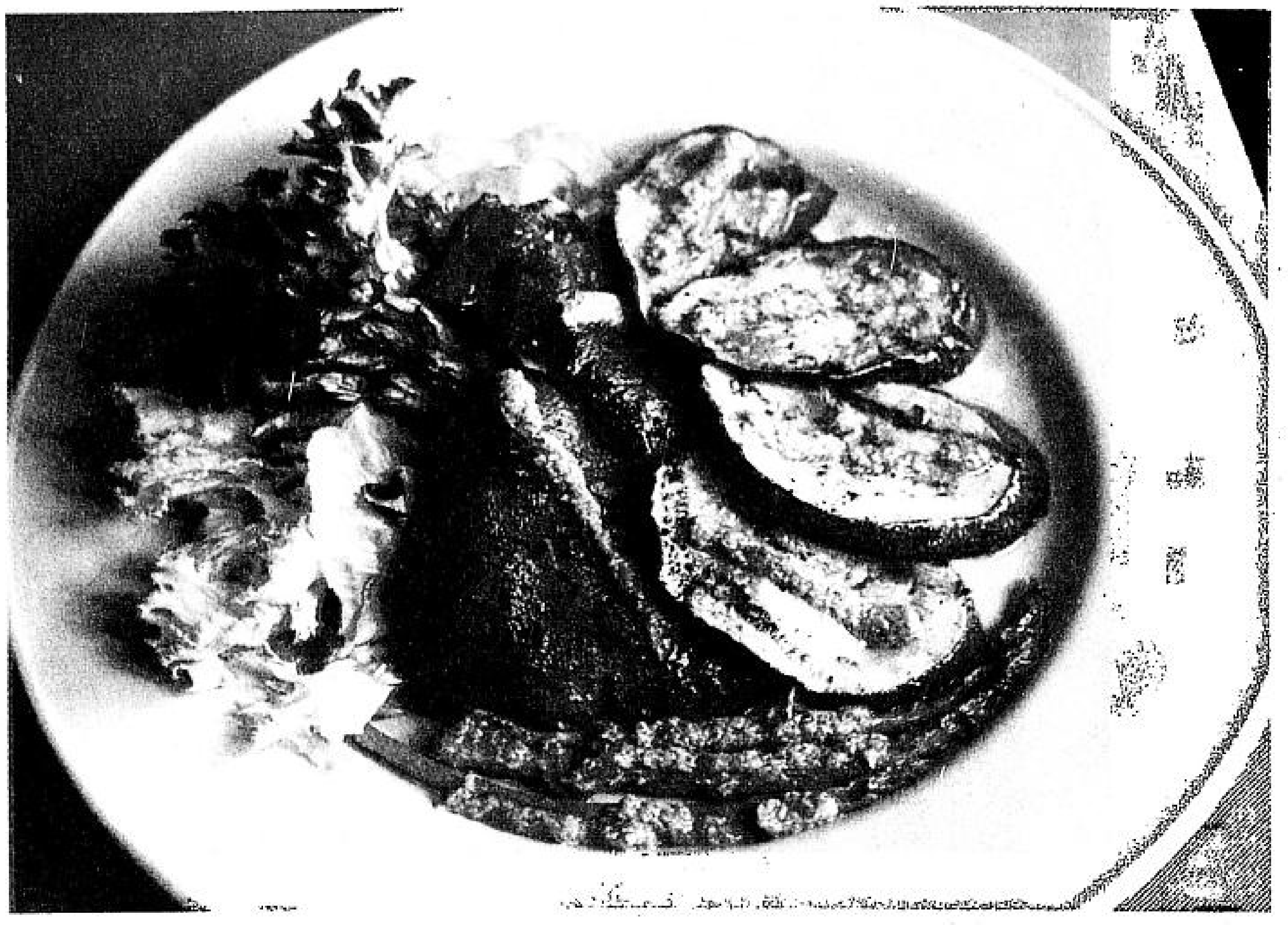
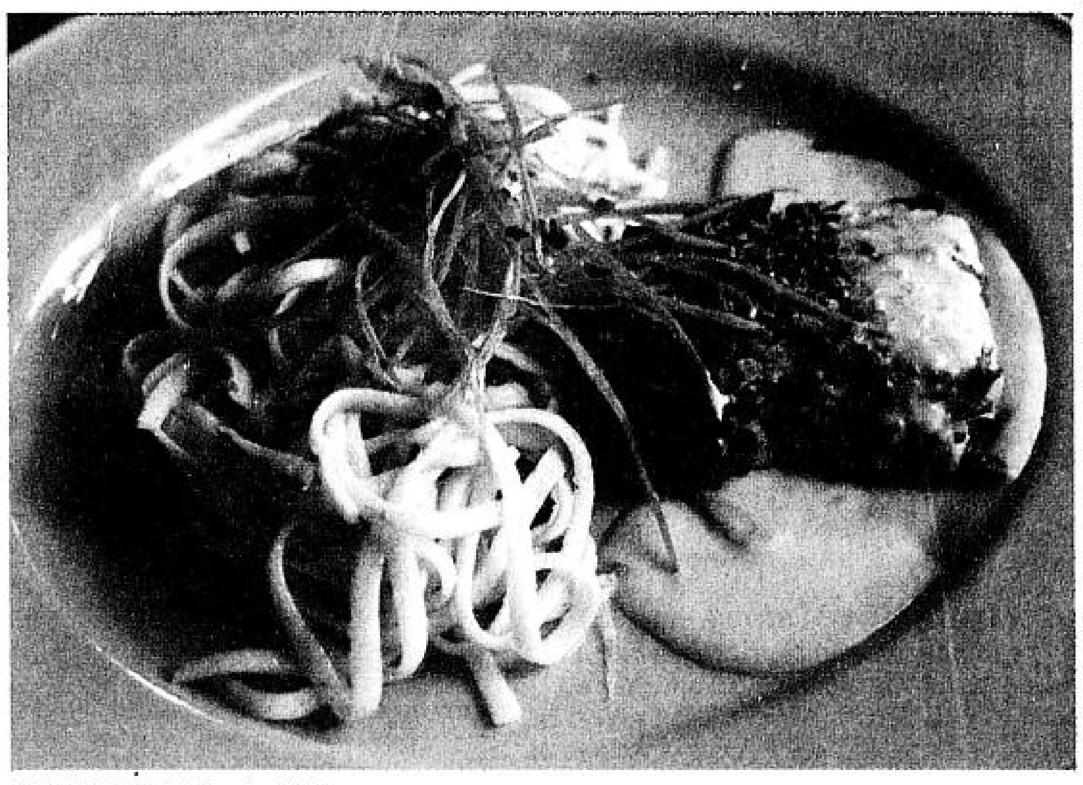


VEGETABLE Antipasto

PORTICO'S bar

Through Portico into the Glasshouse and out the Sidebar



MACADAMIA Crusted Salmon

(From page D1)

Culinary Innovators Inc., established a bigger dining set-up consisting of Portico, Glasshouse and Sidebar at 1771 M. Adriatico, Malate, site of the Gutierrez's six-unit apartment which was originally built in 1932. A pension house inside the compound was renovated to blend with the new Chateau's ambiance. "The difference lies in the execution of concepts," Gutierrez says.

Like European coffee shops and bistros, Portico's doors facing Adriatico Street open as early as 7 a.m. and close at 1 a.m. Plant boxes line the sidewalk under bright, striped awnings, adding a festive touch to the busy street. Its second floor is used as a function room for business meetings or parties for 50 people.

Business savvy

At the heart of the new Chateau 1771 is a landscaped garden, which can accommodate an outdoor concert during summer. Parties for 50 people can be booked in the enclosed dining room of The Glasshouse.

The garden theme is also evident inside Portico. On the first floor, water lilies float in an electric blue mural. On the other hand, giant sunflowers greet guests at the top of the stairs as they reach the second floor. Splashed across the entire wall is a kitchen garden spilling out into rolling hills of lavender and herbs.

At Sidebar, dinner not only tastes good; it sounds good. The nightspot plays new wave, alternative, reggae, crossover and R&B. "It moves with the times," Gutierrez says.

Every year, Culinary Innovators Inc. spends about P300,000 for CDs and music research for Sidebar. They even invested in an electronic music monitor that keeps track of the taste of the bar aficionados.

SEA Bass Steak

SPRING Tofu

SIDEBAR Café

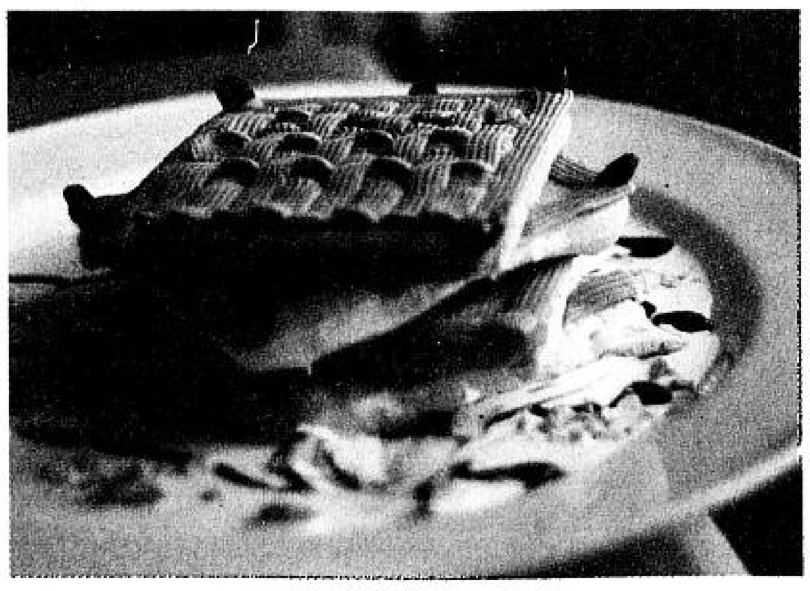
Chateau 1771 may have moved to Ortigas but in its place in Malate is a garden-themed complex also called Chateau consisting of a fine dining resto, a bar and a venue for functions

An AB Psychology graduate of the Ateneo, Gutierrez worked as a guidance counselor and did group therapy and organizational development at the Development Academy of the Philippines.

After steering his mother Rosie's pension house into a money-making venture and opening Rosie's Garden Café for pension guests, he joined the Senate staff of Butch Aquino, moved to Channel 13 and then the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Toward the end of 1987, he went back to entrepreneurship. Blessed with a prime location in Malate, he put up Chateau. The diner was conceptualized by Tess Bautista, who studied in Le Roche. She was introduced to Gutierrez by another friend. Vicky Pacheco, the chef and chief operating officer of Portico, Glasshouse and Sidebar, joined them six months later.

RICKY Gutierrez (right) with chef Vicky Pacheco and assistant chef Dennis Edillon



COFFEE Sans Rival

Even as a kid, Gutierrez, who is in charge of the restaurants' interior design, maintenance, housekeeping, financial management and marketing, already displayed business savvy. He would knock on the doors of their neighbors in San Lorenzo Village and offer his services to install wallpaper. At 17, he sold fish to the mothers of his friends. "If I could not sell the fish to them, I'd urge my mom to buy the leftovers. It was basically to make extra money," he says.

Pacheco, a hotel and restaurant management graduate, worked as a manager in a defunct restaurant in Daly City. "It served California cuisine which was too trendy for a downtown spot," says the granddaughter of Mama Sita's owner. During family reunions, Pacheco's family would always talk about food and recipes. "We'd alternate in preparing dishes every weekend. Then we'd criticize the food," she says.

Innovative dishes

Pacheco is the dream chef of the MTV generation, with a reverence for classics that seem to please traditionalists and a knack for rearranging the elements of ancient dishes, like a gifted hiphop DJ slicing an old record into something completely new.

Macadamia Crusted Salmon, served at Portico and Glasshouse, is an extraordinary balancing act of sweet and salty flavors brought into focus by tender salmon.

Grilled eggplant, zucchini, red and green bell peppers and asparagus drizzled with ginger-infused anchovy paste play off the chewy richness of the Vegetable Antipasto. Each mouthful is different from the next and it's easy to power your way through the huge plate.

The Sea Bass Steak, a pan-fried Chilean sea bass with Portico teriyaki sauce and buttered rice, is another seductive dish.

Pacheco believes her main purpose as chef is the creation of signature dishes. "They're what make people come back again and again," she says. Her Coffee Pie and Coffee Sans Rival, for example, are loyalty-inspiring desserts. Her second-in-command, Dennis Edillon, has also brought an interesting chemistry into the kitchen.

Open from 6:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m., Sidebar is where you can nibble on Continental dishes like Potato Chip Chicken, Grilled Sausage and Fries, Crunchy Calamari Pasta, Sidebar Gambas, French Pizza and Ham, Shrimps and Mushroom Pizza and wash them down with every kind of beer or wine.

For a more relaxing experience, sit in the quiet garden near the tinkling waterfall. The spot invites intimacy, whether the confidences of friends or a whispered proposal, which is best sealed with hot coffee or chocolate.

The cooking at Chateau is avant garde, but as one is pushing it into the future, the other is pulling it into the past. The balance between Pacheco's thoughtful precision and Gutierrez's enthusiasm works out well for diners.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Classic Caesar's salad done Mario's way

DINING OUT

LOCATED at level 2 of Greenbelt Cinema, Mario's Kitchen offers a variety of Spanish Continental dishes at reasonable prices. For soup, Clam Chowder is highly recommended. The classic Caesar's Salad done the inimitable Mario's way is available and can be ordered in Combos: Pescado Rebozado (pan-fried fish fillet), Pollo Cubano (Cuban-style chicken) and Bistek à la Pobre (beef with garlic). For pastas, mouthwatering Shrimp Marucca (choice of linguine or spaghetti with shrimps and mushrooms in a creamy garlic sauce) will surely delight the appetite. Other favorites are Salpicon de Mar y Tierra, shrimps and tenderloin cubes sautéed in olive oil, garlic and chilies and Paellitas, which is the petite version of Paella Valenciana. Call 893-4116 and 813-8627. Another outlet is at 612 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City (tel. 532-3618 and 533-6659).

KIMPURA'S Japanese chef Akira has come up with new Japanese dishes, inlcuding potato pizza, a delicious snack meal of bacon, creamy cheese, green pepper and onions in a thick potato crust; beef roll hake maki, beef slices with celery bits rolled in a paper-thin wrapper and fried to golden brown; ika somen, thinly shredded raw squid chilled with a refreshing light Japanese sauce; hiyashi ramen, cold egg noodles with crab sticks, shrimps and vegetables poured with creamy karashi dressing; yakitori platter, an assortment of beef, chicken, seafood and vegetables on sticks grill-broiled and glazed with sweet wine sauce; and seafood mix, a tasty combination of fish fillets, oysters, calamari and vegetables grilled with special gomadare sauce. Located at Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan and Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati.

CRAVINGS offers diners a chance at specialty cakes like Pineapple and Chocolate Rum Charlotte made of layers of chocolate sponge cake, smooth pastry cream with bits of pineapple and a hint of rum. Also featured as Cake of the Month is Yellow Cheese Mousse and the month's choice coffee concoction, Vanilla Banana Espresso Shake. All are available only this month at Cravings branches located in Katipunan Avenue, Wilson Street Greenhills, Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Robinsons Place-Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, Greenbelt Mall, Asturia Street near UST and Festival Mall.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES celebrates its 8th anniversary with a discount of 25 percent for the Weekend Filipino Fiesta Buffet at Raphael Café-Restaurant. Feast on Sinigang na Hito sa Bayabas, Asado de Carajay, Inihaw na Pusit with Calamansi, Mustasa and Kesong Puti Casserole and Lechon de Leche. There's also the Pinapaitan, Menudo de Kabo and Kandule sa Dilaw. For salad lovers: Ensaladang Puso, Ensaladang Kamias, Kilawing Dilis and Kilawing Lamang Dagat. Palitaw, Bitsu-bitsu, Sapin-Sapin and Suman are offered for dessert. Call 633-7111, local 7416/7440.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Garden Café delights seafood fanatics with "Deep Blue Bounty," a special addition to the Asian/Continental lunch and dinner buffet until the end of September. Main entrées include baked gindara with teriyaki sauce, *adobong hito*, *ginataang alimasag*, crispy *lapu-lapu* with Thai chili, *afritadang dalag*, garlic *ulang*, pan-fried seaperch, blue marlin belly, tuna steak, baked mussels, poached salmon with tarragon cream, and many more. As a bonus, those who dine in groups of 20 get a complimentary overnight stay for two. Call 633-8888, local 2740/2741.

The joy of dishwashing

MICHAEL V shows off the final score.

TWO megabrands—Procter & Gamble's Joy dishwashing liquid and WG&A's Superferry—teamed up in a dishwashing challenge and came up with a new record in dishwashing.

Joy beat its nearest competitor by a whooping 364 plates at the WG&A port terminal at Pier 4 in North Harbor, Manila. It washed a total of 769 plates with just a 50-ml sachet of the dishwashing liquid.

The on-the-spot comparative test also showed that Joy could wash plates up to three times more than other brands. Two rival brands used in the exhibition were a dishwashing liquid and a paste.

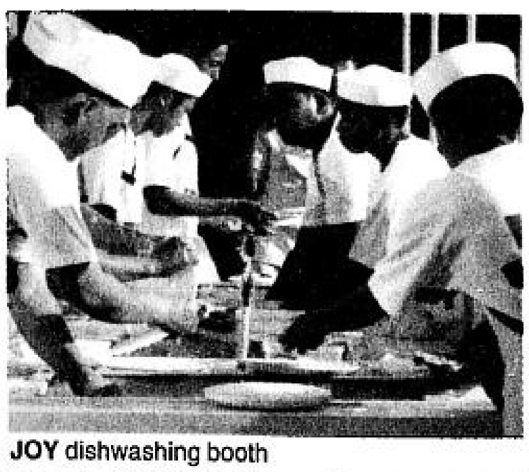
The rival brands were chosen based on a survey on the most economical dishwashing products in the market, which Joy topped.

While the activity was going on, performers led by Allan K staged a show at the promenade on WG&A's Superferry 14.

After having witnessed Joy's superior dishwashing power, WG&A decided to switch to the product and use it on all its passenger ships. P&G's brand manager Brendan Gerrity lauded WG&A for its support.

The event marked the beginning of the promotional tour "Isang Bote, Isang Bansa, the Joy 'Triple Power' Challenge," which will have its first stop in Davao City.

The promo tour, which will involve similar dishwashing events, will be held in various parts of the country to generate maximum public awareness of Joy's brand superiority.



JOY dishwashing booth

RIVAL booth

The French café around the corner

(From page D4)

Lamb Roti with Herbed Aioli, Asohos Tempura, Crispy Duck Salad and Crab Corn Salad with Goat Cheese Dressing. And coffee or tea.

The Lunch Specials (P390+) add a main course (lamb shank, chicken) with Spanish rice; Lamb Roti with coriander, cumin, orange and herb aioli; or Pan-fried Sole), a scoop of Orosa Ice Cream (meaning homemade) for dessert.

There are other desserts, of course, freshly made in the kitchen and not sourced elsewhere: Crème Brulée, Framboise (raspberries) and Myrtle Crepes with Mascarpone cheese, and Strawberry Shortcake, which must be called Fraises Le Mécène, for the site of its birth.

Service is excellent, personal and concerned. Waiter Rommel apologized for their being so busy with an almost full house that he might have failed us in some way. We thought he did just fine, and that Le Mécène is worth a visit—or two, or more.

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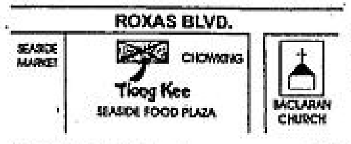
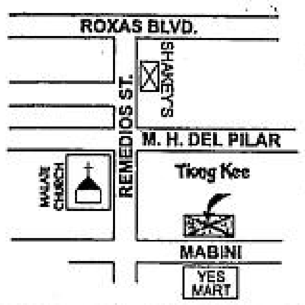


MALATE BRANCH



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Due to extreme public demand another show has been added to the tour September 29, 8:30p.m., Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

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SPANISH
Don Alba of Alba Restaurante Español, no less, shares his culinary passion and secrets to making the best paella, lengua, gambas and more.
October 9, 16, 23 & 30 (Tuesdays) 2-5 p.m. ~ P3,800

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MEDITERRANEAN
Chef Dino Matelli of Panino introduces the exciting flavors and ingredients of popular Mediterranean dishes, from appetizers to salads to meat dishes.
October 10, 17, 24 & 31 (Wednesdays) 2-5 p.m. ~ P3,800

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FRENCH-DINE & WINE
Chef Nick Anderson of Café Provençal gives lessons on classic French dishes, on choosing wines, on dining and on wine-tasting. A must.
October 11, 18 & 25 (Thursdays) 2-5 p.m. ~ P4,500

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FUNDAMENTAL COOKING and BAKING
Roast, bake, grill, sauté, fold, julienne. *Ms. Gina Navarro* shows how—and how you can do just about any recipe.
October 6, 13, 20 & 27 (Satudays) 9-12p.m. ~ P3,500

~

JAPANESE
Ms. Hiromi, food consultant, demonstrates how you can make your favorite Japanese dishes at home the authentic way.
November 6, 13 & 20 (Tuesdays) 2-5 p.m. ~ P3,500

~

HOLIDAY GIFTS & FESTIVE DISHES
Chef Dino Matelli and Ms. Gina Navarro share the joy of baking and cooking for the family and friends. Includes food presentation and personalized packaging ideas.
November 8, 15 & 22 (Thursdays) 2-5 p.m. ~ P3,800

~

BASIC FRENCH
Chef Nick Anderson demystifies the making of soufflé, quiche Lorraine, bouillabaisse and other simple French dishes.
November 3, 10, 17 & 24 (Satudays) 2-5 p.m. ~ P3,800

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* Those who enroll and pay in full from September 20 to 25, 2001 for any one or more of the above courses are eligible. Each eligible student is entitled to one ticket good for all four cooking lessons below. All classes are held from 2-5 p.m.

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LAMB chops with fresh mint

Le Mécène's box-office hits are lamb shank, simmered in reduced red wine, lamb stock and fresh herbs over a slow fire, and Duck a l'Orange, of which there has lately been too few sightings

DUCK a l'Orange

The French café around the corner

MANY dream of coming across a little French café around the corner, quite possibly without Michelin stars, where the owner is the chef and his wife the cashier, and the customers are friends, popping in for a *cassoulet* or a *pastis*, a pot of soup or a *sole meuniere*, perhaps a green salad with *chevre* (goat cheese)—simple, everyday French food.

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

There is one in Makati now, just a few months old, but with no *papa* in the kitchen, or *maman* at the cash register. Instead, the unusual combination has Joey Camaro in overall management (he of Garlic Rose, Caribana, World Chicken and the just-opened Mystic Grill), and professional chef Louie Llamado in the kitchen—experimenting, developing the menu concepts and training the kitchen crew, as well as participating in the management. Also on the team are Cristina Camaro and Vanessa Yap, who take charge of marketing.

Le Mécène (Kalayaan Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati; tel. 899-3810) simply means "the art patron," and seats 50. It is quiet, currently with an exhibit on its walls of the black-and-white photographs of Boston-based Jay Campos—a show called "Optimism."

The menu is largely traditional, classic French cuisine. "Back to basics," says Joey. "No fusion—not yet, anyway," says Louie, although there will be specials, and continuing explorations. In tune with the times and their crises, they price modestly—about 30 percent below the usual for this kind and quality of food and service. They have personally tasted and chosen the wines—"a lean and mean list," Joey calls it, with bottles ranging from P950-P1,900. To do this, both conduct constant research on markets, sources, dishes. Louie confidently leaves the kitchen staff to work by themselves since "I don't keep secrets from them; I teach them all I know."

It is the menu, of course, that attracts. In somewhat guilty pleasure ("My diet!" said Maricris; "So rich!" said Gina; "*Ang sarap*!" said Winnie), we began with the house specialty: pan-seared duck *foie gras* on a bed of fresh lettuce, with a reduced wine sauce and balsamic vinegar. Just a bit, since gems of cuisine must come as small jewels. Ummm.

Just to taste, Louie said, sending out next mini-portions of smoked salmon quiche baked with *cambozola* cheese.

The Le Mécène box-office hit is lamb shank, simmered in reduced red wine, lamb stock and fresh herbs over a low, slow fire, keeping all the flavors intact and interactive. Still another specialty is Duck a l'Orange, of which there has lately been too few sightings in local skies. Maricris, a food writer, commented on the freshness of her duo of pink salmon and white fish, with Hollandaise and tomato mushroom sauces artfully disposed on the plate.

Sole Meuniere (in sweet butter and lemon juice) would have been my choice, except that I am so enchanted with salads and soups that I had fresh clam chowder with cream, bacon and herbs (Visayan clams, not Luzonian, noted Maricris) and crisp greens with raspberry vinaigrette, topped with bacon, croutons and thin shavings of Parmesan cheese.

People addicted to appetizers, as I am, can actually opt for the Light Lunch (P290+), consisting of a choice of first course from among: Clam Chowder, Spinach Soup, Mushroom Soup, Caesar Salad, Lettuce Greens, one Asparagus with Tallegio Cheese Dressing. Then a second course can be picked from the appetizer list: Smoked Salmon Quiche, Grilled Scallops on the half shell with Sauce Mornay,

THE FRENCH / p.D3

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